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IN THE NEXT ISSUE

CALL TO DUTY

Editor
U.S. Army Reserve Command, Public Affairs
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ARMY RESERVE MAGAZINE

WINTER 2005

CALL TO DUTY

USAR Chinooks Support Hurricane Katrina Evacuation

Tennessee Engineers Search for Explosives in Iraq

TRICARE Dental Program Available

SUPPORT
OUR TROOPS

ARMY RESERVE MAGAZINE

Since 1954.

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ON THE COVER

SSG Brian Ogle helps members of a FEMA search team carry their boat onto a CH-47 Chinook helicopter while SSG Rodney Thomas (foreground) makes sure the loading goes safely. (PHOTO BY CHUCK PRICHARD)

Also on the cover: The yellow ribbon symbolizes our commitment to honoring those of our Army Reserve Soldiers who have fallen, those who are missing and those who are serving around the globe. It will appear on each issue until they all come home.

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An MP with the 443rd Military Police Company scans the base camp perimeter in Haiti from a Humvee. Military police Soldiers provided base camp security and force protection at medical and engineer mission sites during New Horizons 2005-Haiti. (PHOTO BY JACK GORDON)

SUBMISSIONS · *Army Reserve Magazine* invites articles, story ideas, photographs, and other material of interest to members of the U.S. Army Reserve. Manuscripts and other correspondence for the editor should be addressed to Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Attn: Public Affairs (ARM), 1401 Deshler Street, SW, Fort McPherson, GA 30330-2000, telephone 404-464-8500 or dsn 367-8500. All e-mail submissions should go to usarcmag@usar.army.mil. All articles ***must*** be submitted electronically or on disk or CD. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will not be returned. Query by letter.

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News Briefs

FREEDOM TEAM SALUTE PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO SUPPORT SOLDIERS

By Chuck Prichard
Army Reserve Public Affairs

Soldiers now have a simple way to show appreciation to the people who support them, thanks to the Army's new Freedom Team Salute (FTS) program.

Launched by the secretary of the Army and the Army chief of staff on May 2, 2005, FTS is designed to thank Army veterans of all generations for their service to this nation and continued support of the Army. The program also gives all Soldiers the opportunity to recognize spouses, parents and civilian employers (of National Guard and Reserve Soldiers) for their outstanding support.

Through the program's Web page, Soldiers can send spouses, parents and employers a packet of materials to recognize their support. The packet consists of:

★ An official Army lapel pin (mounted on a card)

★ An official Army decal

★ A certificate of appreciation signed by both the chief of staff and secretary of the Army

★ A Letter of Thanks signed by both the chief of staff and the secretary of the Army.

Soldiers wishing to use the program should visit the Web site at **http://freedomteamsalute.army.mil**. Follow the directions to register on the site and provide mailing information. In four to six weeks the materials will arrive in the mailboxes of those submitted for the program to say "thank you" for their support.

ARMY RESERVE UNIT MAKES MAINTENANCE HISTORY

For the first time in Army Reserve history, an Army Reserve unit has been selected as a Department of Defense (DoD) level winner in the 2005 Secretary of Defense Field-Level Maintenance Awards.

The 428th Transportation Company, 89th Regional Readiness Command, was selected as one of six winners in the annual competition which recognizes outstanding achievements in military equipment and weapons systems maintenance by field-level organizations of the military services. Awards are presented in the categories of small, medium and large units. The Jefferson City, Mo. unit won in the medium category.

PHOTO: U.S. ARMY

Army's Freedom Team Salute program materials

TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO ARMY RESERVE SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES

Army Reserve Soldiers and their families are eligible for the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP), the same comprehensive, worldwide dental program that was previously available only to active duty family members. The TDP is available in the continental United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands as well as the TDP service areas outside the continental United States.

Unlike the previous TRICARE Select Reserve Dental Plan, the TDP allows for dental coverage of family members in addition to the individual Soldier. Eligible family members include spouses and children up to age 21 (23 for full-time students, or older if the child becomes disabled before age 21).

The TDP covers a wide range of diagnostic, preventive, and restorative services: dental X-rays, examinations, cleanings, fluoride applications, sealants, fillings, root canals, crowns, etc. Maximum annual benefit coverage is $1,200 for all routine dental care; preventive dental care does not count against the annual benefit limit. The maximum lifetime orthodontic benefit coverage is $1,500.

Enlisted members in pay grades E-1 to E-4 have reduced cost-shares for certain procedures. Sponsors must have at least 12 months remaining of their service commitments at the time they or their families enroll. The 12-month enrollment commitment is waived for families of Army Reserve Soldiers called to active duty for certain contingency operations if they apply for TDP within 30 days of entry on active duty. Eligibility is determined based on the service member's military personnel information residing in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

The most important thing for Army Reserve members to do is make sure all the information in DEERS is accurate. Since DEERS is the system used to determine eligibility for military health care, family members could be denied care if DEERS information is incorrect or incomplete. Enrollment can be completed by calling United Concordia at 1-888-622-2256 to request an enrollment form. Forms are also available on the United Concordia Companies, Inc. Web site at **www.ucci.com**.

BATTALION/BRIGADE PRE-COMMAND COURSE TO INCLUDE SPOUSES

By CPT Monica Radtke
Public Affairs Office
84th U.S. Army Reserve Readiness Training Command

Family has always played an important role in a Soldier's life and military career. Since Soldiers are increasingly answering the call to duty and mobilizing either in the United States or deploying overseas, family support is essential now more than ever.

> "...but we also need to prepare commanders' spouses and families so they, in turn, can help prepare the unit's families and unit family readiness groups."
> — LTC Kenneth Cerney

To help ease the uncertainty and anxiety that can arise with a potential deployment, instructors at the 84th U.S. Army Reserve Readiness Training Command (USARRTC) at Fort McCoy, Wis., are expanding their training to include the spouses of battalion and brigade commanders, as well as command sergeants major and their spouses, in the revamped seven-day Battalion and Brigade Pre-Command Course.

"We prepare units, we prepare Soldiers, we prepare Soldier's families, but we also need to prepare commanders' spouses and families so they, in turn, can help prepare the unit's families and unit family readiness groups," said LTC Kenneth Cerney, deputy chief of the Leadership Training Division and course director of the Battalion and Brigade Pre-Command Course at the 84th USARRTC. "In addition to your typical military members, a command team must include spouses."

The redesigned Pre-Command Course covers topics ranging from understanding the Individual Training and Readiness System and learning tactics, techniques and procedures for mobilizing units, to using the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator to gain a better understanding of the different decision making preferences of those working on battalion and brigade staffs. The new course will maintain much of the instruction already found essential for new commanders, in addition to incorporating forums from the Battle Command Knowledge System into the practical classroom exercises. Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in discussions with members of the senior Army Reserve staff as well as with the Chief, Army Reserve, LTG James R. Helmly.

Cerney and his staff have been dedicating their time to assembling topics of interest to spouses as well as ensuring the training the commanders receive remains top-notch. "We want to make sure families are better prepared. One way is to encourage commanders and their spouses to attend this course together," said Cerney.

Spouses will attend the first two days of the course along with the commanders. In addition, they will receive specialized training and the opportunity to share ideas and ask questions of other spouses from across the United States.

"Having spouses attend is a great idea. Since there is an increasing potential for deployments, we need to also address their needs," said LTC Jan Tudor, commander of the 402nd Quartermaster Battalion, New Castle, Pa. Tudor recently attended the course.

Representatives from the Fort McCoy Army Community Service currently speak to students about programs and resources available to service members and their families. A more comprehensive briefing will be given to spouses along with additional information and tools to take back home.

Current course attendees agree the addition of spouses to the course will be beneficial. "The course will give the spouses background on a commander's responsibilities which will increase their comfort level," said LTC Richard Franzis, commander of the 6th Military Intelligence Battalion, 98th Division, Devens, Mass.

The course is also expanding enrollment to include command sergeants major. "We're inviting them to attend the course to help facilitate building a stronger relationship between the commander and command sergeant major," said Cerney.

The Battalion and Brigade Pre-Command Course is another example of updated training the 84th USARRTC is providing to Soldiers in response to current worldwide operations.

The course is open to officers in the grades of major to colonel who are ready to take command as well as to command sergeants major. All 84th USARRTC courses are found under the Army Training Requirements and Resource System (ATRRS) School Code 921. For more information about 84th USARRTC courses, visit the Web site at **https://arrtc.mccoy.army.mil**.

NCOS ARE THE DRIVERS OF HUMVEE SAFETY

By CSM Nicholas Piacentini
Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Reserve Command

Dateline Iraq: Humvee Rollover Claims One Soldier's Life

"The driver of an up-armored Humvee crossed the median in order to pass a slow-moving convoy of vehicles. After passing the convoy, the Humvee abruptly maneuvered back across the median. As a result, the Humvee overturned, fatally injuring the driver and a local national passenger."

Unfortunately this story is not unique. It is one that we are seeing far too often lately, not only in theater but during stateside training as well.

Between Oct. 1, 2004, and Aug. 15, 2005, there were 97 Army Humvee accidents in which Soldiers were killed, permanently disabled, or taken away from their assigned duties for more than a day. Twenty-seven of these accidents resulted in 32 Soldier deaths.

"Many Soldiers will tell you that accidental death is sometimes a necessary part of accomplishing our combat mission," said MSG David Pickerell, U.S. Army Reserve senior safety NCO. "Although accomplishing our mission is first in the NCO creed, the welfare of our Soldiers comes right after it."

In the story above the Soldier died as a direct result of a Humvee rollover which was the case in a majority (20 of 27) of fatal Humvee accidents. The protective armor on our Humvees makes them more prone to rolling over, as the extra weight raises the vehicle's center of gravity. Doing without this armor is not an option. Therefore, unit NCOs must ensure their Soldiers know the proper procedures in the event of a rollover.

Do you know the drill?

Drill Task 2-9, "React to a Vehicle Rollover," in the Military Policy manual "ARTEP 19-100-DRILL" contains the procedures you can teach your Soldiers to better prepare them for a rollover. You can download this from Army Knowledge Online (AKO) at: **https://akocomm.us.army.mil/usapa/doctrine/DR_pubs/dr_b/pdf/artep19_100_10.pdf**. Rehearsing this drill on a regular basis may save your life or the life of one of your Soldiers.

Pickerell also stresses that every Soldier in a vehicle or convoy needs to be familiar with the unit's casualty evacuation plans and vehicle evacuation drills. "Practice them until they are second nature, just as you practice 'React to Contact' and 'Actions at a Halt,'" says Pickerell. "If your Soldiers don't have to think about their actions, their reaction times will be that much quicker."

Manage risk

"Some leaders believe that merely identifying and assessing risk is their only responsibility in the safety process," said Pickerell. "However, we must follow through and actually manage the risks that we identify as part of our assessment."

Pickerell has four tips to help mitigate vehicle risk. First, he says we must make sure our Soldiers aren't driving too fast for conditions. "Speed is consistently identified as a contributing factor to Humvee accidents — a fact that Soldiers should constantly be reminded of."

Many fatalities are caused when Soldiers are thrown from their vehicles or are pinned underneath overturned vehicles because they couldn't get back down into the vehicle before it crashed. Therefore, we must teach Soldiers not to ride too high in gunner positions. "Nametag Defilade" is the key — staying low enough so that your nametag is even with the turret opening.

Unsecured equipment is also a concern. Loose items have a way of hitting a driver who brakes quickly or turns sharply. That is why it is important to store and secure equipment appropriately and according to your unit Standard Operating Procedure.

Finally, every passenger should be familiar with the unit load plan to easily find spare ammunition or medical kits when needed.

> "Although accomplishing our mission is first in the NCO Creed, the welfare of our Soldiers comes right after it."
> — MSG David Pickerell

"Because we cannot prevent every accident from occurring it's important for NCOs to ensure that their Soldiers know how to handle an accident when it does occur," Pickerell said. "After all, ensuring the welfare of Soldiers is the key to fulfilling the NCO Creed — because when you take care of them, they will take care of their mission." ARM

CORRECTION

On page 4 of the Summer 2005 issue of Army Reserve Magazine, in the article, "DOD Announces New Health Care Benefit for Guard and Reserve," TRS was incorrectly defined as "Triage Reserve Select." TRS stands for "Tricare Reserve Select."

WELL-BEING & FAMILY READINESS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION PARTNERS WITH COMMUNITIES TO ENHANCE USAR STRENGTH

By MAJ Ted Hart
Chief, Community Relations Division
G-1, Well-Being Directorate
U.S. Army Reserve

Soldiers are the centerpiece of the Army — without you nothing is accomplished. You are the best our Nation has to offer and I cherish your dedication and sacrifice. That led me to my first priority, which is the well-being of Soldiers and their families. Nothing that I do as the Secretary of the Army is more important than this. I will work hard to meet Soldiers' near-term needs, including providing the best quality of life possible for families, while building the Army of the future. I am committed to ensuring that Soldiers get the best training and right equipment. I will be your advocate in seeking support from the Department of Defense and Congress.

Dr. Francis J. Harvey, Secretary of the Army
*[*Soldiers Magazine *(Hot Topics, page 7), May 2005]*

Since the Secretary of Army named the well-being of the American Soldier as his top priority, the U.S. Army has redoubled its efforts on this front. This led the Chief, Army Reserve, LTG James R. Helmly, to create the Army Reserve Well-Being Directorate within the Army Reserve G-1. The Well-Being Directorate encompasses three divisions, the Soldier, Family Readiness and Community Relations.

The newly formed Community Relations Division (CRD) is the vanguard for community interface and external strategic partnerships. Its mission, central to the Well-Being Directorate's function, is to gain and maintain tangible well-being support-systems through community partnerships and outreach programs to enhance the Army Reserve's strength. The division's vision is to cultivate strategic partnerships that provide well-being support systems and highlight Soldiers as citizens. The strength of the community relationship defines the success of the mission.

The Army Reserve's end strength is being severely challenged by the demands of the Global War on Terrorism and the constantly changing environment associated with the transformation initiatives of the Army as a whole. It makes good practical business sense to forge strong community ties and strategic partnerships for many reasons. Powerful community relationships, coupled with strong corporate alliances, are a retention force multiplier and directly support the Army Reserve G-1's two top priorities: manning the warfight and recruiting and retention.

The Army Reserve is a community-based force, versus the active Army which is primarily installation-based. This requires the Army Reserve to develop and maintain relationships that provide local well-being support/services to Soldiers, veterans, retirees, civilians and their families. Networking with all available community resources is key for the Army Reserve. As a community-based force, we derive our strength and our "life's blood" from the community.

Our philosophy is that community relationships are personal relationships, with locality being key. With this, we will target the following community segments: corporations, civic and service organizations, local and state governments, institutions of higher education, other branches of the military and volunteer organizations. In order to influence key community leaders, we must increase the exposure of the Army Reserve in our communities and strategically reintroduce and reinvent the Army Reserve as an integral and vital partner. This will be done through public statements of support, memorandums of agreements and understandings and by lauding model Army Reserve community supporters. It is widely recognized that there are many in the community who, although they may never have served in the military, seek to serve through supporting those who are currently serving. The CRD's mission is to bridge the

ILLUSTRATION U.S. ARMY

Community relations equals Army Reserve strength

gap by articulating the needs of the Army Reserve to the community and helping them frame their mechanisms of support for our shared Citizen-Soldiers.

To ensure our Citizen-Soldiers live optimally, we must be good corporate citizens. To inspire and extol community partnerships we must promulgate our commitment to our Soldier's well-being. The Army Reserve's Soldier development also supports community development by improving the quality of lives for Soldiers, families and other constituent groups which is a precursor to Army Reserve strength. In a competitive environment, the community provides the Army Reserve with precious human capital. It is imperative that this commodity be returned to community with added value. We must articulate the return on their investment to the maximum extent possible. We must and will promote coordination, cooperation, mutual respect and understanding among all targeted segments of society.

Army Reserve Soldiers and potential recruits make decisions largely based on input from family, friends and influential community leaders. Our communication and community outreach efforts seek to create strong Army Reserve advocates in the public domain who will amplify the Army Reserve as the military option of choice for those who wish to serve their nation.

The Army Reserve is defending our nation at home and abroad, shoulder to shoulder with the active Army. The community is sharing its most precious asset — its citizens, further illustrating America's greatness as a nation. Through the community's support, its members are inextricably linked to the nation's defense while preserving the heritage and value of a strong of local and federal militia.

Ultimately, the community benefits from the values, experiences and leadership skills that Citizen-Soldiers bring home and to their employers and other key community agencies. The Community Relations Division will help systematize the return of Warrior-Citizens to their homes and employers by partnering with the community and communicating the well-being support systems that will aid reintegration into civilian life.

Good community relations are the unlimited partnership the U.S. Army Reserve cannot afford to sacrifice.

OPERATION PURPLE CAMP HELPS CHILDREN OF DEPLOYED SERVICE MEMBERS

By Russell Latherow
Army Reserve Child and Youth Services Regional Coordinator
96th Regional Readiness Command

The elevated noise level in the main lodge is normal for 70 teenagers gathering for lunch. Then a cry rises above the din. "Hey, hey!" The campers answered in unison "Ho, ho!" Suddenly all is quiet. The camp counselor begins her noon announcements. Lunch consists of salad, corn dogs, potato salad, greens and pie. The kids can have seconds if they clean their plates. During the meal, they play a game. If you get caught with your elbows on the table, or your napkin is any place other than your lap, you have to do a loop around the table while the others sing "Round and round and round you go..." Welcome to Purple Camp.

The camp really doesn't have anything to do with the color purple. In today's military society, the term "purple" means multi-component services combining Army, Navy, Air Force, Reserves, etc. In 2005 there are 20 such camps spread throughout the United States and overseas. The camps are sponsored by the National Military Family Association in partnership with Sears, Roebuck and Co. Designed for children of deployed, recently returned, or soon-to-be mobilized military personnel the camps bring kids together for a week of activity, guidance, fellowship and fun. Fun was at the top of the list at the camp near Neihart, Mont.

Child and Youth Services (CYS) regional coordinators for the Army Reserve, see first-hand what the children experience as critical to their ability to market these opportunities to an ever-increasing number of Army Reserve youth. Although the Army Reserve CYS Program is relatively new, a full slate of programs and services is offered to the "suddenly military" kids. Operation Purple Camp is one of the premier programs to help children of deployed service members cope with separation anxiety and related issues.

The driving forces behind the Neihart camp are Susan Fairhurst and her husband, Fred. Susan is the Montana Air National Guard Family Program Coordinator; Fred is a full-time colonel for the Montana Air National Guard and commander of the Mission Support Group. The Fairhursts have led youth camps for several summers; this is their second "purple" camp. It is obvious they know what they are doing. The program operates like a well oiled machine.

The camps run from Monday through Friday during the summer vacation months. This particular camp starts with a pre-mobilization exercise at the Air Guard base. The kids' records are checked for signatures, permission slips, medical conditions, and general completeness of their packets. Then the group is bussed approximately 40 miles to Camp Rotary in Neihart. Boys and girls are assigned to different cabins, and released to unpack. Each cabin has at least one adult and a couple of seasoned campers. The cabin-groups ages range from 9 to 16 years old. The idea is to help young kids mature and older kids to become mentors. No food is allowed in the cabins. "We could have a bear problem," Fred explains.

The day starts at 6 a.m. with a voluntary three-mile run to the main road and back. "Every day more and more kids show up for the run. By the end of the week, we have a real good crowd," says Fred. Breakfast is followed by clean up and morning activities; then, an hour break for lunch, afternoon activities and finally free time. The kids write letters home, shower, play organized sports, or just plain relax. A 55-gallon barrel hanging in the trees constitutes the most popular free time activity: bull riding. After dinner each night, a flag-lowering ceremony is followed by optional activities. Lights go out at 10:30 p.m.

The camp counselors have developed a unique system of reward and punishment. At the beginning of the camp, each participant gets a few play money coins. As the camp progresses more coins are awarded or taken away based upon participation, attitude and behavior. The money is redeemed on Thursday night when the counselors hold an auction for items donated throughout the previous year. The camper with the most money gets to buy the coolest stuff.

The camp culminates with the most popular event of the week: the farewell dance. Returning campers eagerly await this chance to make new friends. The young kids just like the music.

"The camp gives the kids an opportunity to realize they aren't the only ones dealing with the absence of a parent," Fred Fairhurst said. "It also gives them a chance to do something they normally wouldn't get to do. It's fun for them. It's fun for us. The adult supervisors get to say 'thanks' to a group that is too often overlooked when we talk about effects the Global War on Terrorism have on military families. Everybody wins." ARM

Operation Purple Camp's lunch room is crowded with kids during the noon hour.

CYS PROGRAM MANAGER, LIAISON SPECIALIST AND COORDINATORS ESTABLISHED

The Army Reserve now has a Child and Youth Services (CYS) program manager and an outreach liaison specialist at the U.S. Army Reserve Command in Fort McPherson, Ga., as well as nine CYS regional coordinators throughout the country. The goal of this team is to establish and implement a Child and Youth Services Program that will address the Army Reserve's child care, youth development, and school transition needs through community-based efforts.

These highly skilled professionals are developing services to meet the unique needs of the more than 150,000 youth in the U.S. Army Reserve. They will provide Army Reserve Soldiers and families with up-to-date information on services available to them in their own communities; create activities relevant to today's Army Reserve youth; educate the community about Army Reserve youth's unique needs; and establish avenues of support to meet these needs.

For more information about free and reduced child care, summer camps, leadership activities, or other services, contact the regional coordinator near you or visit the Child and Youth Services section of www.arfp.org.

THE CYS STAFF AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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88th RRC	Ijeoma Osuji	612-713-3539
89th RRC	Sarah Jones	800-226-4219 ext. 308*
90th RRC	Misty Rivon	800-428-1378 ext. 8590*
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*toll free number

The Changing ARMY RESERVE

CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE DISCUSSES CHANGES IN THE ARMY RESERVE AND WHY CHANGE IS NECESSARY

PHOTO: JACK GORDON

LTG James R. Helmly, Chief, Army Reserve

LTG James R. Helmly
Chief, Army Reserve
Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command

I recently addressed the Reserve Officers Association meeting in New York, where I provided an overview of our Army Reserve. That occasion provided an opportunity to review changes occurring within our Army Reserve and why those changes are necessary. I'd like to share those with the wider audience of our entire Army Reserve family.

ARMY RESERVE'S PURPOSE

We exist for reasons founded in law, and it's helpful to start there. The institution we are a part of does not have a mission. It has a purpose and that purpose is defined in law. Title 10 of the U.S. Code states that the Army Reserve will:

> "...provide trained units and qualified persons available for active duty in the armed forces, in time of war or national emergency, and at such other times as the national security may require..."

When confronted with questions about what our country's reserves were meant to do and not do — and suggestions that we're not supposed to mobilize except in war — my answer to that is simply, I think we are at war. Are we not? When our nation calls us, I don't particularly care to quibble about the wording of the law. The nation has called. Our challenge is to be ready and to continue to be ready. Our Army exists to fight and win our nation's wars and we're an integral part of that Army — the world's best Army. And to continue to do that, we have got to make some profound, deep, enduring changes inside our institution — the United States Army Reserve. We have no choice in this, for the "war" that we prepared ourselves for is not the war we are faced with today and in the future.

"We find ourselves in times of profound change. But during those times we must retain our footing."
— LTG James R. Helmly

PROFOUND CHANGE

This is a time of profound change. We should be lifelong learners; we need to be agile, adaptable, intellectually eager, and understand the need to excel — not to succeed — but to excel in today's world.

If you are content with success, I will tell you, then you will be only contented. Ours is the world's best Army. Our Army's contract with our nation is to fight and win our nation's wars. That contract is non-negotiable. It's a solemn obligation. There's only one thing that the world's best Army can do and must do and that is excel, or we will not remain the world's best Army. And this is not like a football game. If we fail as an Army, then we fail our nation.

Some people don't quite get that. They take for granted our tremendously strong, robust, blessed nation; they take it for granted that our nation's security is a given. Our security is not a given. Our security has been earned on the backs and with the blood of American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines for more than 230 years, and we have to continue earning that security. We are on point now. If you took the oath, you cannot escape it. So here we are. We find ourselves in times of profound change. But during those times we must retain our footing.

Everybody says, 'well sir, what are we going to look like tomorrow?' My answer is 'that matters not as much as the fact that we are moving in the right direction — and that we move with incredible energy and speed.' The way we've changed in the past is that we have set a marker out there and said, 'Tomorrow we'll look like that.' Only tomorrow changed. A learning organization is prepared to undergo constant adaptation, constant change. The way conditions change in this world today, we have to be a learning organization — poised and available for active service, as if we knew the hour and the day we would be called.

Below are listed some of the more significant changes now occurring within our Army Reserve:

ARMY RESERVE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. We've moved to a different force management model, horizontally arrayed. We worked closely with Army so that the Army Reserve Expeditionary Force complements the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) Model. We are pursuing packaged and cyclic resourcing of our capabilities instead of the outmoded tiered resourcing against a time-phased force deployment list. AREF is the unifying strategy by which our units and Soldiers are organized, equipped, trained and mobilized. We will manage that over about a five-year readiness cycle, which ranges from reconstitution and training, to validation and employment. But, the progression from one stage to the other is event-based, not time-based. When you move into the employment stage that does not mean you will be mobilized. It does not mean that you will not be mobilized. What it does mean is that you will be more prepared and that if we need your kind of organization you will be called first.

BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC). It is controversial. I respect that. We are too big for our britches in the Army Reserve. There is no goodness in size, there's goodness in quality. So we are using BRAC to reduce ourselves, tighten our belt, and lean ourselves out. And though it is much more than just facilities; in the Army Reserve we will close or realign 176 different installations — everything from a single building to a smaller installation. We will, through BRAC, reduce the number of buildings we must maintain, allowing us to move into more modern, energy-efficient facilities in better locations.

STREAMLINE C2. We will streamline our command and control headquarters. The days of TDA (Tables of Distribution and Allowances), non-deploying headquarters commanding all of our deployable forces are over:

★ We will go from ten Regional Readiness Commands to four Regional Readiness Sustainment Commands. Southwest, Northwest, Northeast and Southeast: these organizations will run our facilities, base operations, network, maintenance shops, and morale support to all Army Reserve Soldiers and units on an area basis.

★ We will move the 84th Army Reserve Readiness Training Command out of Fort McCoy, which is now integrated with the Army Reserve Readiness Training Center, to Fort Knox. That frees up space at McCoy to allow us to use that base as a principal training installation.

★ We have already aligned Fort Hunter Liggett and Camp Parks as the West Coast garrison and are turning that into a Combat Support Training Center of Excellence — setting up how we do live fire, counter-ambush, extended convoys to stress ourselves in training.

★ The 65th Regional Readiness Command in Puerto Rico will convert to a modified table of organization and equipment (MTOE) Command and Control Headquarters.

★ The Army Reserve Medical Command, which is not yet matured as the overarching medical command, will stay where it is, but convert to an MTOE Medical Deployment Support Command.

★ The 3rd Medical Command will convert to a Medical Deployment Support Command.

★ The Military Intelligence Readiness Command, for the time being, will remain non-deployable, but it is every day taking over Military Intelligence (MI) units. The intent there is to have a functional MI command and induce readiness and excellence.

These are but a few of the changes. Although less obvious, other important changes are occurring in our ranks. One of those changes involves culture and expectations.

CULTURE CHANGE AND EXPECTATIONS

There is an old Army Reserve recruiting advertisement that implored, "Be your own sweet self 98 percent of the time and Super woman the other 2 percent." Think about the message that sends. Be your own sweet self 98 percent of time; and join us the other 2 percent. You can't wait until Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. to decide to be a Reserve Soldier. If you do that, then you're unprepared for mobilization. So we did away with that advertisement: it set false expectations.

An old retention advertisement informed us, "Pat really looks forward to those monthly Reserve checks — another reason to stay in the Army Reserve. Extra income."

"We issued an order, saying 'do away with the word Reservist.' It is time we honored your service by calling ourselves Army Reserve Soldiers. That is a term of honor."
— LTG James R. Helmly

What does that emphasize? Tangible benefits, money: it went on to talk about buying a new car. Then — about all you've got to do is come see us one weekend a month and maybe two weeks in the summer. That is not the message for the Soldiers we seek.

What are we communicating now? 'Honor's never off duty.' If you're an American Soldier you live Army values, then it's never off duty. Never off duty! You can be wearing civilian clothes, but we are still American Soldiers, we're just not on active duty every day.

I abhor the word Reservist. Reservist leads to 'weekend warrior.' It says you're something less than a Soldier. If you wish to be something less than an Army Reserve Soldier, the Army Reserve is not the place for you.

If you wish to be an inactive duty Soldier in the Army Reserve, we want to be a part of your team. We want to be together. We issued an order, saying 'do away with the word Reservist.' It is time we honored your service by calling ourselves Army Reserve Soldiers. That is a term of honor.

BE PREPARED

Mobilization and a call to active duty is, in fact, the norm, not an exception.

We need to be ready now. I continue to get e-mails — 'Sir, when will I be mobilized?' Listen, to me, why are you asking me that? Get your head straight. You ought not to be asking me that. If you've got your stuff together and your command is together and you're ready and your personal affairs are ready, then you're ready. We'll give you as much time as we can, but that's your responsibility as a leader. First, be ready yourself; then, ensure your subordinates are ready.

Some have referred to today's war in terms of the away game and the home game. The home game is not scheduled. The home game happened in New York on the morning of the 11th of September. And if something such as that would happen again and our nation calls us, we need to be ready. That means physically, mentally, culturally, psychologically if you will, and competent with our units and our Soldiers and our equipment.

So let's just understand the real deal. The ultimate test is if we have an emergency here and we're rolled out to meet that. At that time, our citizens will demand the very best that we can provide. There's no half rate. There's no showing up saying 'my firefighting detachment's supposed to have three trucks, but only two of them work. Well, we've got 50 Soldiers, but only 25 of them are trained.' Commanders, that's your responsibility to fix. And mine.

For years we went around the world saying that we would operate in a secure, rear area. We comforted ourselves saying that we don't need to train. I even had senior leaders saying, 'But sir, you know, that's infantry training.' It's not infantry training; it's warrior training. We need to learn how to survive on a very lethal, non-linear battlefield where there are no secure rear areas; there are no defined lines; and where an enemy is as present as the truck that drives up to you when you stand guarding a gate and it explodes. That's the kind of world we're in. The very uniform you and I wear makes us a target. We must be ready.

PEOPLE SUPPORT

People support; this you must execute this with dignity, with style. The intent here is to bring the respect and dignity to those heroes who have earned every bit of it, and to their deserving family members, as well.

Let's get out and visit our wounded Soldiers. This does not require a formal program. It requires wanting to do it. This is a simple thing. Commanders, ask yourselves, 'who in my command area is in the hospital as a Soldier?' And don't restrict it to Army Reserve. Go see active component and National Guard Soldiers. You'll do wonders for American Soldiers with just a visit.

Energize family readiness. Not long ago, we began sending a wreath to family members of deceased Soldiers. Recently, a colonel came to me and said 'I went to this funeral. Most of the people at the Soldier's funeral had never had any contact with the Army except through the loved one, who was being buried. They came to me and said I saw flowers over there. It came from the Army Reserve. You guys do that? Wow. I can't believe that.' That's powerful.

> "I will tell you that I am privileged to be called an American Soldier because I'm privileged then to be a part of the band of brothers and sisters that these Soldiers and all of you constitute."
> — LTG James R. Helmly

None of those family members are likely to go down to the recruiting office and enlist. They probably won't. But do you understand the condition that sets? Because the greatest source of influence to potential recruits are parents and we want parents to say 'it's hard, it's tough, it's not your everyday job. But do you know what they do for you there? They dignify you. They teach you leadership. They enrich you with experience and a broadening of your horizons as a young American. It's not your everyday job. It's a good place.'

HUMAN COST

There's a human cost in war. I will tell you, this Army Reserve of ours has responded magnificently, principally through the character, strength and courage of our people. We have had more than 141,000 Soldiers mobilized. We've lost 90 great Americans. One — Sergeant Matt Maupin — remains captured.

You know we do an awful lot of things in terms of posters and ceremonies to keep uppermost in our mind the warrior ethos — 'we will not leave a comrade on the battlefield.' We're working hard to find Matt Maupin, and when we believe we've found him, to go get him.

His parents are so giving: they have organized a drive to collect computers, and have donated those to the Army. We shipped them to Iraq and set them up in an Internet Cafe where other Soldiers now send and receive emails from home. And all Matt's parents asked in return was to have a screen saver that comes up with Matt's picture and the statement, "I'll not leave a fallen comrade."

These are the kind of people who inhabit our ranks and those who support them. These are human faces — just like yours and mine and everybody around us. These are great Americans. I will tell you that I am privileged to be called an American Soldier because I'm privileged then to be a part of the band of brothers and sisters that these Soldiers and all of you constitute.

Thank you for what you have done and continue to do to serve our Army and our nation, and I'm proud to serve with you as an American Soldier. ARM

CALL TO DUTY

USAR CHINOOKS LIFT EVACUEES, SPIRITS IN NEW ORLEANS

By Chuck Prichard
Army Reserve Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS — As CW4 Jim Adkins hovered his CH-47 Chinook helicopter over what Hurricane Katrina left of the coastal village of Empire, La., he saw something inspiring. Among the overturned shrimp boats and piles of splintered lumber that once were houses stood the only structure that was still recognizable as a building: a small wooden church.

"Everything else was pretty much demolished. But right there in the middle of all that debris was this church. It had a few shingles missing off the roof but, other than that, it looked like it was in pretty good shape," Adkins recalled.

That inspirational feeling didn't last very long. When Adkins maneuvered the helicopter for landing, he took a second look at the church. "I saw this empty foundation of a building. It was about 50 yards from the church. It took me a second or two to figure out that it actually was the foundation of the church and that the storm had picked up and moved the whole building. That's when I thought to myself, 'Well, that's it. Every last thing in this town has been destroyed,'" Adkins said, shaking his head.

He and the other members of Company B of the 159th Aviation Regiment's 5th Battalion will have many similar stories to tell when they finish their current tour of duty. For now, though, the 46 members of the first Army Reserve unit called up to support the Hurricane Katrina relief effort are too busy to talk at length about their experiences. The unit's 12 pilots keep its five Chinooks in the air over New Orleans and the surrounding area from sunrise to sunset, performing a variety of missions.

"We came down here to work hard and that's what we are doing," said MAJ Michael Buford, commander of the unit, which is headquartered at Fort Eustis, Va. "The days are long but my crew understands the importance of this mission and they are giving it their all."

PHOTO: CHUCK PRICHARD

A CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the Army Reserve's Company B, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, picks up three large sandbags from a staging area along the shore of Lake Pontchartrain. The Reserve unit, called to help with the hurricane relief effort, dropped more than one million pounds of the sandbags to help repair damaged levees around New Orleans.

The unit's statistics back up Buford's assessment. In a typical month back home the unit's helicopters log about 90 hours in the air. In their first seven days since reporting to New Orleans Naval Air Station for the post-hurricane operations, the Co. B helicopters spent 138 hours in the air hauling people and cargo into and out of the disaster area. They carried approximately 1,400 Soldiers and rescue workers; 115,000 pounds of internal cargo consisting of mostly food and water; and 1,718,000 pounds of external cargo, mostly large sandbags they dropped to seal the breaches along the city's protective canal system. The crews also transported 128 residents and several pets that were rescued from the flood waters.

"We picked up one grandmother in a wheelchair who had been up in her attic since the storm came through. She was a tough lady but she was glad we came along and got her out. That's what we came here for — to help people," said CW3 Glenn Coffin, another pilot.

Anticipating that the unit might get called out to help with hurricane recovery, Buford prepared members for a short-notice departure and Co. B was able to load up and get to the scene quickly. They arrived at the NAS at about 10 p.m. on Sept. 5. They started flying missions at 7:30 a.m. the next day. By the end of that first day they had rescued 93 people.

The most dramatic pick-up of the first day demonstrated the fluid nature of the unit's mission. After dropping off a rescue team, a Co. B helicopter was heading to another mission when an urgent call came over the radio for an evacuation from a New Orleans neighborhood being swamped by rising floodwater. They were near the area, so the crew responded. Despite having no radio communication with the rescue crew on the ground, the pilots were able to avoid several obstacles and land the Chinook on a highway overpass that was not submerged. The rescue team used amphibious vehicles to bring out 26 residents. The helicopter crew loaded them on the aircraft and took them to safety at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

"It's hard to do something like this and not feel good about it," said LTC Vincent Mercandante, 5th Battalion commander. "We don't get a lot of interaction with the people because we generally pick them up and drop them off pretty quickly. But their handshakes, 'thumbs up,' and big smiles let us know that they appreciate what we do."

That spirit of doing something to help others saturates the Co. B ranks. "This aircraft can provide a lot of help to the people who need it most. But it can't help them if it doesn't fly. That's why I believe that what I am doing is imperative to the mission," said SGT Isaac White, a member of the Co. B maintenance crew.

To keep the helicopters in the air, the maintenance crew works long hours, often well into the night.

"I thought that on my first trip to New Orleans I'd be staying out late on Bourbon Street. Well, I got it half right. I am staying up late," chuckled PFC Collin Roux, another member of the maintenance crew.

The company is prepared to stay as long as needed, Buford said. "We have a unique capability that is tailor-made for this mission. In situations like this, where you need to move lots of people and cargo, the Chinook is perfectly suited. We'll keep flying until somebody tells us to go home."

Members of a FEMA search and rescue team prepare to board a CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the Army Reserve's Company B, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment. This mission, near the devastated town of Empire, La., was one of many conducted by Co. B during the unit's deployment to the Gulf Coast region in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. The unit, headquartered at Fort Eustis, Va., was the first Army Reserve unit mobilized for the recovery operations.

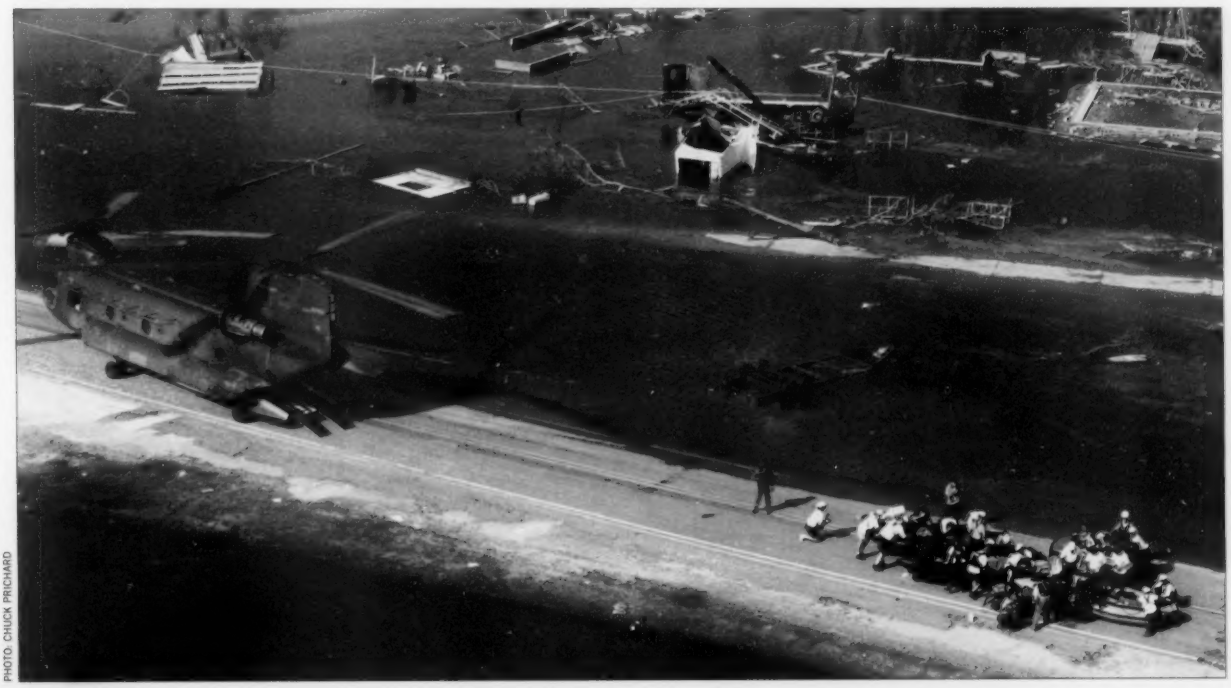

PHOTO: CHUCK PRICHARD

WALL OF HEROES HONORS 17 FALLEN OIF SOLDIERS

By SSG Tomas Rofkahr
364th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT SNELLING, Minn. — The sun was high and hot on July 9 as the 88th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) unveiled its Wall of Heroes Memorial at Fort Snelling, Minn. Dedicated to fallen 88th RRC Soldiers throughout history, the Wall of Heroes honors the 17 Soldiers killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as those from previous conflicts.

The unveiling was attended by Soldiers of the command, family members of the fallen, supporters and distinguished guests including the commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve, LTG James R. Helmly.

During the ceremony, the commander of the 88th RRC, BG Michael W. Beasley, recalled the accomplishments and honors of the 88th and the heroic addition the 17 fallen Army Reserve Soldiers made to that proud history. "I could start one story, but it would take me hours to tell all of them; we are dealing with America's finest heroes on this wall," he said.

Beasley's comments were followed by those of BG Irwin K. Cockett Jr., (Ret). Cockett who is known for his distinguished service in special operations and aviation and multiple combat tours in Korea and Vietnam, was there as a special guest. His speech was brief and poignant. He greeted the families warmly in the manner of his native state of Hawaii, spoke to them of the courage of their Soldiers, and said the hardest task any commander faces is telling a family how their loved one died.

"It is always difficult to understand, why, why my son, my father, my family. Only the good Lord can tell us why. However, it is for us, the living, to honor their memory, and to know that time is a wonderful healer," he said.

To the current Soldiers of the 88th, Cockett had a special message that was no less strongly spoken.

"To the Soldiers who are with us today your ranks grow thinner — but know that your comrades demand you carry on with duty, honor, and country — lest they have died in vain."

As the midday sun rose higher in the sky and the temperatures continued to soar, Helmly took his turn to honor the families of the fallen Soldiers, and to put into context the bonds that tie all Soldiers — past and present together — regardless of branch or rank.

BG Michael W. Beasley, left, and LTG James R. Helmly, unveil the Wall of Heroes memorial at Fort Snelling on July 9. The wall memorializes Soldiers of the 88th RRC who were killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

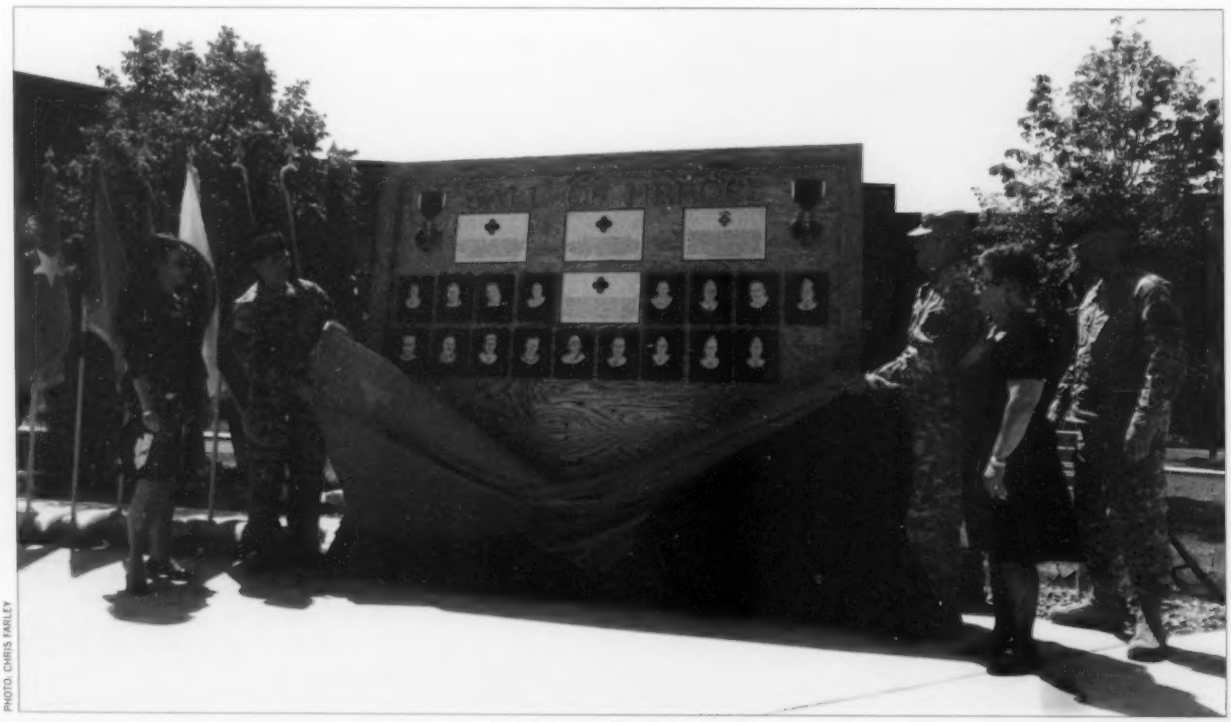

PHOTO: CHRIS FARLEY

"I'm Ron Helmly," he began, "I am an American Soldier. It's the proudest title that I wear, because I'm privileged to serve in the company of all you that wear our uniform today, and those of you that have worn our uniform previously. It is an honored title, and I would ask all of you from this day forward, that when you see an American Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or Coast Guardsman — stop — and simply say, 'thank you.' By saying thank you for their service, you will be remembering and honoring those that we're here to honor today."

For Helmly, the oaths that all Soldiers swear that seems to bring such significance to their sacrifice. "Each of these Soldiers raised a hand with their oath and swore before God — 'send me,'" said Helmly. "In spite of the danger, in spite of the certain sacrifice, in spite of the certainty of hardships — they said, 'send me.'"

After remarks, CSM John S. Werner conducted the calling of the Last Roll. As Werner read the names, the families of those Soldiers slowly stood and were recognized. For each of the fallen, parents...children...wives — each family member — was a stark reminder that the loss of a single Soldier is felt deeply by many.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the United States has lost more than 2,200 American service members in the Global War on Terrorism. Of those, 95 were from the U.S. Army Reserve, including the 17 Soldiers honored on the Wall of Heroes in the Blue Devil Museum of the 88th.

While the focus of the memorial was for the fallen, two guests at the memorial were very special living examples of the strength of the Soldiers of the 88th and the love of their families: SPC Jeremy Church, an 88th RRC Soldier from the 724th Transportation Company and the only Army Reserve Soldier to be awarded the Silver Star during the Global War on Terrorism, and Keith Maupin, the father of SPC Keith "Matt" Maupin, also of the 724th, who is the only Soldier currently listed as captured in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Can I do more? Can I do better? Am I making a difference? I was struck by these questions, and frankly have myself asking them of myself, my command and my Soldiers since that day."
— MG Dennis J. Laich

A SOLDIER'S WORDS IMPACT AN ARMY RESERVE COMMAND

By Linda A. Jeleniewski
MSG Richard R. Lambert
Public Affairs Office
94th Regional Readiness Command

BROCKTON, Mass. — "Can I do more? Can I do better? Am I making a difference?" MAJ David S. Connolly, 1173rd Transportation Terminal Battalion, Brockton, Mass., often asked himself these three questions.

During times of sorrow, it's normal to recall images of loved ones or words of wisdom — messages that come to us when we need the strength most to go on, challenging us to move forward. On April 6, Connolly, 15 other Soldiers and three civilians were killed when their Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed in Afghanistan during inclement weather. The crash was reported as a non-hostile incident, but the pain of losing one Soldier, no matter how, left a mark on family, friends, colleagues, and, in this case, the 94th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) in New England.

At the funeral 10 days later, Connolly's three brothers offered a eulogy that, according to MG Dennis J. Laich, commander, 94th RRC, was a testament to Connolly's life and character. The message had a profound impact on the general.

"They said that their brother always challenged himself by asking three questions: Can I do more? Can I do better? Am I making a difference?" said Laich.

"I was struck by these questions," he explained, "and frankly have found myself asking them of myself, my command and my Soldiers since that day."

Connolly's overseas mission involved transportation and port management.

At 37, Connolly had already made a name for himself in Boston's North End. One of about 125 assistant district attorneys, Connolly worked at the Boston Municipal Court as a prosecutor. Married for two years to wife, Debra, Connolly was on his second deployment when he made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the Global War on Terrorism. Connolly's family was presented the Bronze Star posthumously April 15.

On July 16, three months to the day of his funeral, Connolly's family, friends, colleagues and fellow Soldiers gathered at the Brockton Reserve Center, to which he was assigned for a final goodbye.

At the ceremony's conclusion, many of the Soldiers saluted Connolly's helmet, weapon and boots in a final tribute to Soldier whose words will continue to live on at the 94th RRC.

Under a blistering sun in temperatures surpassing 90 degrees, those gathered paid tribute to his memory. Silence greeted Soldiers and family when the Last Roll Call — when a Soldier's name is announced three times before it's stricken from the rolls forever — was sounded.

A full 21-gun salute and a mournful rendition of Taps followed.

Connolly's wife and family were then presented the Order of Saint Christopher by BG "Sandy" Sanders, Surface Deployment and Distribution Command commander. Laich presented the Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Awards-encased flag.

At the ceremony's conclusion, many of the Soldiers saluted Connolly's helmet, weapon and boots in a final tribute to a Soldier whose words will continue to live on at the 94 RRC.

"Can I do more? Can I do better? Am I making a difference?"

MG Dennis J. Laich presents Connolly's widow, Debra, with the Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen encased flag award at the Brockton Memorial Service, July 16.

PHOTO: RICHARD LAMBERT

PHOTO: U.S. ARMY

MAJ Marilyn S. Chiafullo, left, and MAJ Scott Barnett cut the cake at the Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen ceremony at the Hall of Heroes in the Pentagon July 7.

ARMY RESERVE SOLDIERS RETURNING HOME FROM IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN RECEIVE WELCOME HOME WARRIOR-CITIZEN HONOR

By Al Schilf
Army Reserve Communications

LTG James R. Helmly, chief, Army Reserve, presented the new Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award July 7, 2005, to 15 Army Reserve Soldiers from the Washington, D.C., area who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The ceremony took place in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon.

"The Army's theme this year is 'A Call To Duty.' The people here today have answered that call," said Helmly. "This is not about a job; this is about service, ethos, and commitment."

"This program honors our Soldiers and their families" said Helmly. "It is a gesture of gratitude from our nation to recognize them for their dedication, service, and sacrifice."

Eventually, all Army Reserve Soldiers who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom will receive the award. It consists of an encased American flag, a specially designed commemorative coin, a lapel pin set for the Soldier and spouse, and a Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen flag.

Helmly commented that although the Army Reserve generally provides support services, there are no front lines on today's battlefield. "Every convoy is a combat operation; there are no safe, secure areas," he said.

"The Army's theme this year is 'A Call To Duty.'"
— LTG James R. Helmly

"This is America's war. To the Soldiers here today — welcome home, and thank you for your service. And I want to thank the families of all American Soldiers for their service and support. Because of you, Iraq and Afghanistan are on the road to freedom today. Their people are savoring the taste of liberty."

The Army Reserve expects to award 70,000 Soldiers by the end of the fiscal year 2005. These awards are being presented at ceremonies throughout the country upon the Army Reserve Soldiers' return home. The ceremonies are open to families, employers, co-workers, community leaders, elected officials and the media.

NEW ENGLAND SOLDIERS HONORED WITH WELCOME HOME WARRIOR-CITIZEN AWARDS

By Linda A. Jeleniewski
Public Affairs Office
94th Regional Readiness Command

DEVENS, Mass. — Ninety-three Soldiers from the 94th Military Police (MP) Company, Londonderry, N.H., received Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Awards (WHWCA) in a ceremony held on Battalion Square at the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area in Massachusetts.

The outdoor ceremony, held under sweltering conditions, lasted less than an hour, but the "Hooahs" were long, loud and sincere.

LTC Stephen J. Falcone, commander, 655th Area Support Group, presented the awards to Soldiers who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, honoring them for their acts of heroism, exceptional performance of duty, and achievements involving combat and non-combat service.

"The 94th Military Police Company was mobilized for 23 months, 15 in a combat zone," Falcone emphasized. "The Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award recognizes the sacrifices you made — along with the sacrifices made by your family, your employer and your community."

"The Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award recognizes the sacrifices you made — along with the sacrifices made by your family, your employer and your community."
— LTC Stephen J. Falcone

The WHWCA is a new Soldier recognition program LTG James R. Helmly, Chief, Army Reserve, authorized to ensure that Soldiers serving in harm's way receive tangible recognition for their service and deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

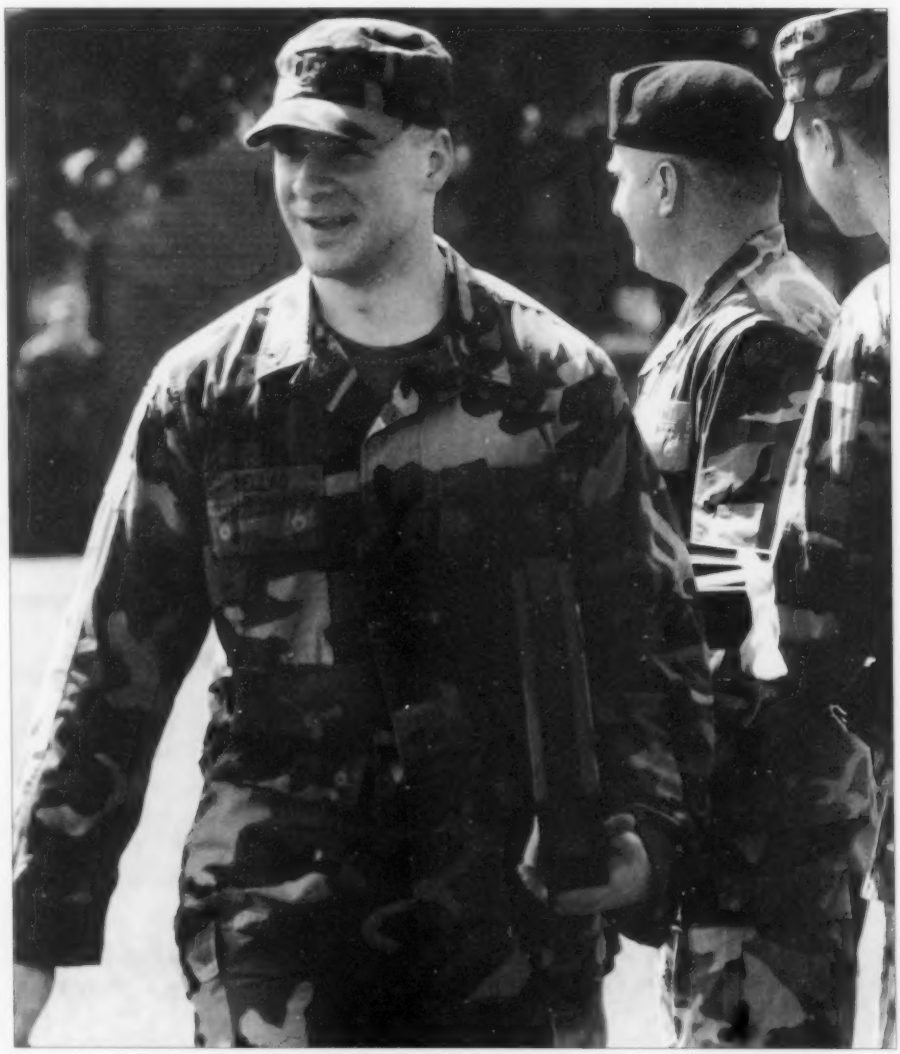

PHOTO: LINDA JELENIEWSKI

SGT Shaun P. Bellao, 94th Military Police Company, smiles with pride after receiving his Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award during an awards ceremony held at Devens, Mass.

According to Helmly, the program is a way to honor in a small measure, Soldiers who have willingly answered their nation's call to war.

The 94th MP Company first mobilized in early December 2002 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. After completing mobilization training at Fort Drum, N.Y., the Soldiers performed law enforcement operations at Fort Polk, La.

On April 20, 2003, the Company deployed from Fort Polk to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Upon arrival in Iraq, the unit provided direct support to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and general support to the 82nd Airborne Division.

"So, when you go home tonight share this award with your family, neighbors and employer. Thank them for supporting you. Thank them for taking care of your family while you were away."
— LTC Stephen J. Falcone

During their time in Iraq, the unit's Soldiers performed every type of mission Military Police are asked to do, completing over 1,500 combat missions, traveling over 400,000 miles, operating out of 12 different base camps, processing over 3,500 enemy prisoners of war, and training over 6,000 recruits of the Iraqi police force. "So, when you go home tonight," said Falcone, "share this award with your family, neighbors and employer. Thank them for supporting you. Thank them for taking care of your family while you were away. They all took part in this mobilization, and they should be thanked."

Eventually, all Army Reserve Soldiers who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom, and who meet the criteria will receive the award during a unit ceremony.

The award consists of an encased American flag, a specially designed commemorative coin, a lapel pin set for the Soldier and spouse, and a Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen flag.

ARMY RESERVE SOLDIERS PUT DUTY FIRST IN IRAQ

By SFC Derrick Witherspoon
Public Affairs Office
7th Army Reserve Command

BAMBERG, Germany — The 1st Infantry Division (ID) Detachment, Rear Operation Center (ROC), became the first Army Reserve unit in Europe to receive the Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen award (an initiative of LTG James R. Helmly, chief, Army Reserve) during a welcome home ceremony recently held in its honor.

The 1st ID ROC mobilized to Iraq in February 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Bamberg-based Army Reserve unit mobilized with 24 Soldiers holding military occupational specialties, including infantry, artillery, engineer, intelligence, chemical, movement control and communications. Its mission was to support the 1st Infantry Division by establishing, maintaining, and operating the Task Force Danger Rear Command Post (CP). The 1st ID ROC is the only Army Reserve unit assigned directly to the 1st Infantry Division.

"It was somewhat of a difficult mission in the beginning because to my knowledge, we were the first ROC to establish a rear operation center and a division rear CP in Iraqi." said COL Michael J. Sinnott, commander, 1st ID ROC. This was an initiative of MG John Batiste, commander 1st Infantry Division."

Sinnott said Batiste contributes to the success of the unit's mission by keeping most of his unit intact throughout mobilization.

"Keeping a majority of the unit together was a first for a ROC in Iraq. Every other rear operation center that has gone down there has been split up to be more of a replacement detachment," said Sinnott.

The commander said the Soldiers of the 1st ID ROC worked 24 hours, seven days a week during the 366 days they were in Iraq.

"The Soldiers worked very hard the entire time we were in Iraq, and they did an outstanding job under strenuous working conditions," said Sinnott.

One of those 1st ID ROC Soldiers was MSG Andre Paige, a senior battle staff NCO during the unit's mobilization. Paige said the unit went through some stressful times, but because they worked together as a team, no task was too big for them to handle.

"Some of the Soldiers got a little stressed sometimes, which is common when you're in a situation like we were in, but what's great is that we were trained and more than prepared for this mission," said Paige. "The good thing about being an Army

Reserve Soldier in Europe is that we deploy on short notice, so we're more active-duty minded, which gave us an advantage when it came to being ready for the mission we had to do. I believe it played a huge part in our success."

SFC Ted Garcia, who worked as a 1st ID ROC battle staff NCO, said he also believes preparedness played a big role in the unit's success, but added that the "unexpected" was a slight hindrance.

"When we first got there we didn't know what to expect, but once we got into the job we felt more comfortable, because we began to understand what our role in the scheme of things was going to be," said Garcia. "That helped out a lot, knowing what our jobs were going to be and the environment we were going to be working in. The only thing we had to worry about was what direction the mortar rounds were coming from. Besides that, everything else was good."

Paige praised the unit for bringing all of its Soldiers back safely under dangerous circumstances.

"We may be a little mentally broke right now, but we have time to work on that," said Paige. "Leaving no man behind, that's what it's all about. Bringing everyone back safely has to be our greatest accomplishment."

Sinnott said he could find only one word to describe the job his Soldiers did in Iraq: magnificent.

"There isn't a better adjective you could use to describe the 1st ID ROC Soldiers," Sinnott said. "The division's motto is 'no mission to difficult' and the ROC certainly proved that right."

Living up to their motto was quite a feat, as Sinnott said — but as many of the Soldiers expressed, bringing every Soldier back home safely was an even greater accomplishment for the 1st ID ROC.

CSM Michael M. Harris, command sergeant major of the 7th Army Reserve Command presents MSG Cedric E. Pitts (right) with the Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Flag as COL Marion W. Liles (left), deputy commander of the 7th ARCOM, holds the Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award.

PHOTO: SFC DERRICK WITHERSPOON

14TH QUARTERMASTER DETACHMENT REMEMBERS FALLEN COMRADES

By 2LT David Rodriguez
Executive Officer
14th Quartermaster Detachment

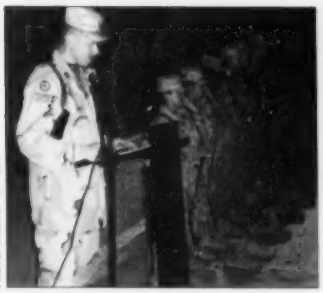

PHOTO: WILLIAM FORREST

CPT James Beck reads the names of the fallen Soldiers from the first Gulf War in 1991.

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq — On Feb. 25, 2005, Soldiers from the 14th Quartermaster Detachment held a memorial service here to honor fallen comrades from the first Gulf War in 1991. CPT James Beck, 14th Quartermaster Detachment commander, led a tribute to Soldiers from the 14th who were killed during a missile attack at Daharan, Saudi Arabia.

At an evening ceremony held by the 129th Logistics Task Force Battalion flagpole on the 14th anniversary of the tragedy, Beck read off the names of each Soldier killed, as members of the current unit placed pairs of boots at the base of the flagpole and saluted. The ceremony, which attracted an audience of about 100 spectators, was especially meaningful to several members of the unit.

"It's an honor to be able to do what they never had the chance to do. (Referring to the unit's mission to purify water.) We are honoring them."
— SGT Michelle Satterfield

At the start of the Gulf War in 1991, the 14th Quartermaster Detachment, an Army Reserve water purification unit from Greensburg, Pa., was mobilized in support of Operation Desert Storm. Within days of their arrival in Southwest Asia, their barracks was struck by an Iraqi Scud missile killing 29 Soldiers and wounding 99. Thirteen of the dead and 43 of the injured were from the 14th Quartermaster Detachment. The unit never had the opportunity to perform the mission it was mobilized for, since 80 percent of its Soldiers were either killed or wounded. The small town of Greensburg and the nation as a whole mourned those lost only hours before the war ended in a cease-fire.

The 14th Quartermaster Detachment sustained more casualties than any other unit in the first Gulf War conflict. Fourteen years later, the 14th Quartermaster Detachment is once again in Southwest Asia — mobilized for the same mission in support of a different war. Although no Soldiers currently in the unit served back in 1991, all are aware of its history.

For SFC Francis Rozgonyi, who has been with the 14th Quartermaster Detachment for eight years, the ceremony held particular significance. "It was a special tribute to be able to do this here in Iraq, as each prior year, the ceremony has been held in Greensburg," said Rozgonyi. "I know the families and the community would be moved by this tribute."

SGT Michelle Satterfield, who was 11 years old in 1991, remembers hearing about the unit's tragedy from family members who had served in the military. "It's an honor to be able to do what they never had the chance to do," said Satterfield, referring to the unit's mission to purify water. "We are honoring them."

LTC Glyger Beech, chaplain of the 301st Area Support Group, presided over the ceremony and paid tribute to the fallen Soldiers. "We are standing on their shoulders," said Beech. "They gave their lives to their country and to God," said Beech.

"We are standing on their shoulders. They gave their lives to their country and to God."
— LTC (CHAP) Glyger Beech

Beck was as an enlisted Soldier with another unit in the Gulf in 1991. "I remember standing in the crater a few days after the attack, not knowing that one of the dead was my battle buddy from basic training," he said.

At the ceremony, a moment of silence was observed at the time of the attack as the illuminated American flag waved gently in the desert night. All present came to attention and saluted the 13 pairs of boots as the somber notes of "Taps" broke the silence.

The 14th Quartermaster Detachment plans to place a permanent memorial at LSA Anaconda before their scheduled departure in January 2006. To members of the 14th, past and present, this will signify mission complete. ARM

U.S. TASK FORCE BOLSTER HELPS HAITIANS REBOUND

PHOTO: JACK GORDON

Haitians arrive as early as 1 a.m. to hold a place in line during the free medical treatment program.

HAITI

By Jack Gordon
Public Affairs Office
99th Regional Readiness Command

(Editor's note: Gordon traveled to Haiti with the U.S. Army Reserve Public Affairs Acquisition Team and filed the following story).

GONAIVES, Haiti — In 2004, the world knew the storm as Hurricane Jeanne, but far too few knew what happened here after Jeanne cut a swath of unparalleled devastation and destruction through this tiny Caribbean island — particularly through the city of Gonaives, a deepwater port located about 110 kilometers northwest of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. One of Haiti's more populated urban areas, Gonaives has a population of about 200,000. Already troubled by ongoing civil unrest from decades of political turmoil, Gonaives and its citizens were irrevocably altered by Hurricane Jeanne.

On Sept. 20, 2004, more than 5,000 Haitians died after the tropical storm showered tons of water on the city. Raging floodwaters from the upland rivers and streams — usually parched and dry — tore channels through the foothills above the city, bringing deadly torrents of water down to meet the swollen ocean surging ashore. The city of Gonaives stood between the foothills and the ocean. At the flood's crest, only the rooftops of two-story dwellings were above water. Everything was destroyed.

International emergency aid agencies responded as quickly as possible given the challenges of logistics and the internal politics of a relatively unstable and corrupt government. Armed gangs roved the streets, ruling the Haitian night, even as United Nations forces tried to establish stability and order. Once the waters subsided enough to begin recovery, it was clear that what little the people of Gonaives had before Jeanne was now gone.

At the flood's crest, only the rooftops of two-story dwellings were above water.

Initial rescue and aid efforts were cut off by destroyed or blocked overland supply routes. There was no potable water, little food and complete chaos after the catastrophe. Many people were dying from dysentery and waterborne bacterial diseases from decaying bodies.

ED BY ARMY RESERVE, FROM FLOODWATERS

In spring 2005, U.S. Southern Command launched New Horizons 2005, Haiti — a joint service exercise focused on humanitarian assistance projects, primarily providing engineer support and medical missions.

Building schools brings back memories while Soldiers make new friends

"In the fifties, roads in Puerto Rico were like this," said SGT Jose' Sierra, 699th Engineer Company, Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Ceiba, Puerto Rico. "Driving these dusty dirt roads reminds me of the stories my mom used to tell me about walking to school. She would walk barefoot and carry her shoes, like these kids, then wash her feet and put on her shoes before going into her school. She said she only had one pair of shoes for the whole year." Several children were walking along the road's berm, trying to avoid the powdery dust rising from the passing vehicles. They too were carrying their shoes.

Sierra expertly threaded the wide-bodied Humvee through narrow and twisting dirt backstreets filled with people walking, children running, "tap-tap" taxis jockeying for position and blaring their horns, frightening pack animals led by local merchants who shared the unmarked lanes amid the frenzied, early morning Haiti traffic. Driving from the task force base camp through the city's outskirts to construction project sites every day, he can relate to the overwhelming poverty surrounding him.

"These are good people," said Sierra. "I'm glad we can help them here — our unit is building new schools for the children."

SGT Luis Davila, also with the 699th, served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan before his unit came to Haiti.

"I learned a lot in Afghanistan" said Davila, "but over there it was more contracting with local nationals. Here we're actually building the structures. It's like what we did in Guatemala during Exercise New Horizons in 2001 — the buildings are the same, with cement block walls on concrete pads and metal roofing."

The unit built two structures and repaired one during their mission in Haiti. Davila said the best thing about his military service is that, whether he was in Guatemala, Afghanistan or in Haiti, his efforts help people in need. Other Soldiers in the 699th, who interact daily with the locals shared his sentiments.

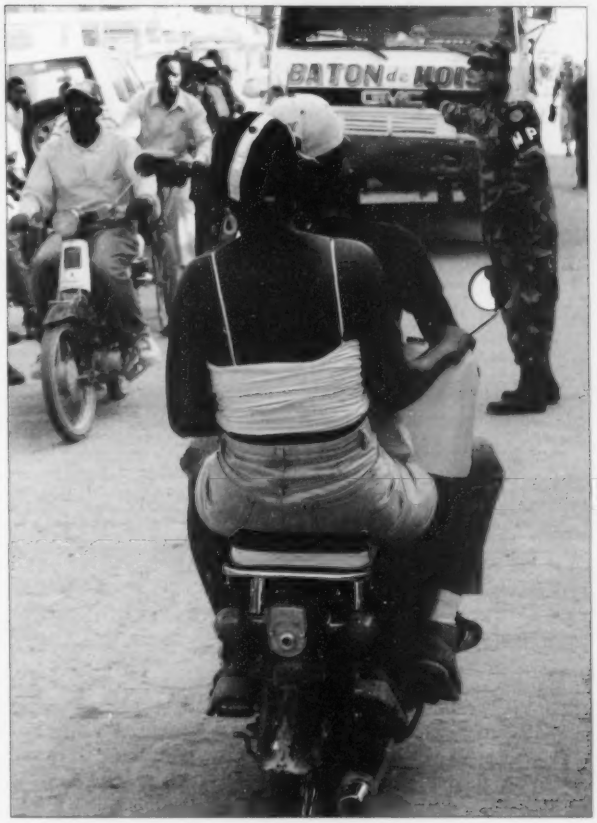

PHOTO: JACK GORDON

Army Reserve Military Police direct traffic around the medical site where motorbikes and bicycles are a primary mode of inner city transport in Haiti.

PHOTO: JACK GORDON

Soldiers from the 699th Engineer Company finish the floor in one of the schools the unit built.

PHOTO: JACK GORDON

SGT Luis Davila, 699th Engineer Company, is warmly greeted by Haitian school children.

The military police force is responsible for base camp security, site security and convoy security. All Soldiers are "locked and loaded" if force becomes necessary in self-defense, but most agree on the overall friendliness and "gracias" attitude of the Haitians they are helping.

"I like the people here — this is a good country," said SSG Jorge Babro, who explained that the unit's mission capability and effectiveness was significantly enhanced by the "crossover" skills Army Reserve Soldiers bring to the field when in uniform. "A lot of us work in the construction trades in our civilian jobs," Babro said. Navy Seabees were also working the school construction sites with the Soldiers from the 699th.

According to the Davila, the reception of U.S. troops has been positive. Haitians welcome the support of the task force mission here, and friendships are being established. Haitian national Gordany Limage is at the unit's worksite each day, talking to everyone and often assisting in translation, since the official language of Haiti is Kreyol (Creole). Although its basic origins are French, Kreyol contains myriad dialects.

"I'm trying to speak four languages," Limage said, "Kreyol, French, Spanish and English. These are good friends of mine now. I live in Gonaives and the Soldiers are trying to help us, so I help them."

Military police provide base camp security, force protection at mission sites

Although today's Reserve task force is in Haiti on a humanitarian assistance mission — not as a peacekeeping force — security and force protection are required.

"Everyone's friendly. I think they know that we're here to help them. They all smile, for the most part. We get an occasional glare but we just smile and say 'Bonjour,'" said SGT Joe McKim, 367th Military Police Company, 99th Regional Readiness Command (RRC), Horsham, Pa. "The people are appreciative. We're on guard but we realize this isn't Baghdad either. This country has lost a lot in the past 10 years, so they're guarded too. In Iraq, we couldn't be as open with the people as we are here now, for instance, and we were much more guarded there (Iraq) running convoy security."

"Some of these people have been told that the world has forgotten about Haiti — they tell us that," said SSG Edwin Ramos, 272nd Military Police Company, 99th RRC, Cumberland, Md., "But we have not forgotten about Haiti. We have a lot of good Soldiers, who feel good in their hearts for what they are doing here. Many of these Soldiers are young — this is their first deployment."

The military police site security mission was to control the crowds and maintain order, both of which always presented a challenge, whether getting seven vehicles loaded with supplies through a maze of streets teeming with people to the convoy's destination, or managing the crowds that arrive to receive medical checks and treatment at the Medical Readiness Training Exercise (MEDRETE).

"The training is good for us," said SPC Andrea Roof, 443rd Military Police Company. "You can never get enough training, but this is the real world and these are real people. You never know what's going to happen, so you have to be prepared for everything. It's having a profound impact on me."

PFC Richard Kendig is also with the 443rd, and being in Haiti is an even newer experience for him.

"Everyone's friendly. I think they know we are here to help them. They all smile, for the most part. We get an occasional glare but we just smile and say 'Bonjour.'"

— SGT Joe McKim

"This is my first mission," Kendig said, poised in the turret of a Humvee with a Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) mounted in front of him. At the MEDRETE, crowds often numbered more than a thousand. Lines are long. Haiti's temperatures are usually in the high nineties with heavy tropical humidity — all these factors contribute to a potentially volatile situation, but the presence of the Military Police, as well as their friendly and helpful attitude, seems to be a calming, rational influence.

Much-needed military medical assistance serving as stop-gap measure in many struggling neighborhoods

Thousands of dead bodies underwater or floating out to sea with the tides were left after the storm. Disease, already rampant, further challenged the residents of Gonaives. Haitians continued dying from injuries or unsanitary conditions resulting directly from the flood and its aftermath. Army Reserve units from across the United States are now working together at MEDRETEs to provide health classes about hygiene, administer basic treatments for intestinal parasites and minor injuries, and teach preventive measures to avoid future illness.

CPT Linda Hatler, 6252nd U.S. Army Hospital, 63rd RRC, Ventura, Calif., literally had her hands full with a 13-day old infant brought to the MEDRETE by its mother. Holding the small child was one of many things that broadened Hatler's experience as a healthcare practitioner.

"I'm a surgical physician's assistant (PA)," she said, "and this is like a family practice, so it's much different from what I normally do." Hatler is currently working with a Veteran's Administration research team in Baltimore.

"I did a humanitarian assistance mission in Belize last month," said Hatler. "I hope to do more work like this — it's much better than the year I spent in Kuwait." Soldiers in medical units are generally more familiar with the need for medical intervention in humanitarian assistance missions in third world nations.

COL Befrina Ruiz, 4211th U.S. Army Hospital, 63rd RRC, San Diego, Calif., has been a medical doctor in private practice for 30 years. She's semi-retired from her civilian practice, but volunteers to use her medical skills to help others whose circumstances are less fortunate. As part of a medical team from the Lion's Club International, she has traveled to and treated those in need in India and the Philippines.

"In 1998 I was in Guatemala on a MEDRETE. We worked with the Guatemalan Soldiers who took us to the villages. This situation is similar, but Guatemala had a more stable government. The people are in need of our help here — they're in trouble — and we're doing the best we can. There is a need to start from the very bottom. It's survival of the fittest here, and the people need to learn how to better help each other," said Ruiz.

Ruiz could have retired but said she extended her service commitment when she learned the unit would be part of New Horizons 2005, Haiti. Her life has been dedicated to administering medical aid to others and she doesn't think she'll stop, ever.

"One of the patients here asked me if there was any hope for the people of Haiti," said Ruiz, "and I said 'If there is breath…there is hope.'"

Standing a few inches above the six-foot mark and crowned with a head of silver hair, COL Andre Henry presents a rather striking figure in Haiti, where he was born. Henry's Army Reserve assignment is with the 6252nd U.S. Army Hospital. He is serving as the commander of the 176th Medical Group in Haiti, as well as the Officer in Charge (OIC) of the MEDRETEs in Haiti. A practicing medical doctor in America, he speaks fluent Kreyol.

An elderly woman sits outside a door marked with a sign that reads "doctor." As each patient ahead of her is treated, her hands slide along the surface of the bench and she moves closer to the door. When her turn arrives, she is escorted into the small, makeshift office in a school hosting the MEDRETE. After talking to her at length and conducting a quick physical exam, Henry bids her farewell. His eyes are filled with compassion.

"She is an elderly blind lady," Henry explained. "She is living on the streets and is homeless, like many here. She is in pain, weak and has a poor appetite. We gave her some vitamins and aspirin. It's all we can do."

PHOTO: JACK GORDON

A Haitian woman makes her way to the market balancing a large load atop her head.

PHOTO: JACK GORDON

Symbolically, a much larger helping hand of a U.S. Soldier holding that of a Haitian child — such was the humanitarian assistance the U.S. military was providing to the devastated city of Gonaives that was destroyed by Hurricane Jeanne in September 2004.

"It's good for me to be here," said CPT Alex Farr, 7214th Medical Support Unit, 63rd RRC, Garden Grove, Calif., "because I realize how fortunate we are where we live and it gives me a sense of how grateful I am for all that we take for granted in America." In his civilian career, Farr is a dentist with a practice in San Francisco. The results of Haiti's lack of clean water and dental hygiene surface during his exams.

"There's very little here in the way of dental care, so there are bad teeth that have to be extracted," Farr said. "But they willingly come to see us. The pain they have been suffering is often greater than the extraction. Unfortunately, we are limited in what we can offer in the way of resources, but nonetheless, even if it's a drop in the ocean, it will help. I'm grateful to be here as part of it."

At a remote MEDRETE hosted by the Happy Lady Orphanage and Children's Training and Nutrition Center, Soldiers provide exam and treat more than one hundred children who are either resident orphans or students at the school. The Soldiers' arrival creates excitement and curiosity in the children.

SGT Miranda Schrader, 6252nd U.S. Army Hospital, 63rd RRC, Port Hueneme, Calif., with fair skin and blonde hair, is even more mysterious to the children, but her reasons for volunteering for New Horizons 2005, Haiti, are not.

"We had a choice of different missions, but I felt Haiti needed us more than the other places, and they have welcomed us here," Schrader said. "The devastation that happened here eight months ago changed the lives of these people. I'm trying to change their lives, too, by helping."

PHOTO: JACK GORDON

COL Andre Henry, 6252nd U.S. Army Hospital, examines an elderly, blind woman who has come from the streets seeking help. Henry was born in Haiti and speaks fluent Kreyol.

In her civilian occupation, Schrader works as a security contractor, but her heart is set on becoming a sheriff or policeman in the California Highway Patrol.

Mission in Haiti is like coming home for some Army Reserve Soldiers

The U.S. Army is perhaps the most culturally, ethnically and religiously diverse organization on the earth. Among these Soldiers are those like Henry, whose roots and ancestry were first formed in Hispaniola — the island that hosts the sovereign nations of the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

"I was born in the Dominican Republic — my mother was Dominican but my father was from Puerto Rico," said SPC Angel Montalvo, 699th Engineer Company. "I've lived in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and New York. I live in Puerto Rico now. I joined the Army Reserve in 2003 and I'm the first in my family to serve in the U.S. military. I'm proud of that, and my family is proud of me."

"It's a lot like this in the Dominican Republic. Some people have money and some people don't. The people here are living in basic wooden houses most without water or electricity. They may eat only once a day and their children can't attend school unless they have money," said Montalvo.

"Through the Army Reserve, I'm able to be here now," Montvalo said. "It isn't about how much money I'll be paid for this — it's about how you do things from your heart."

Like any deployment to an unforgiving climate, uncertain security and austere living conditions, Soldiers here are fulfilled by the gratitude of the Haitians they are helping and the pride they feel from "doing the right thing," Ramos said.

"This mission shows the world the commitment of the United States to this region, and nobody has a heart bigger than that of the American Soldier," said Ramos.

The residents of Gonaives will struggle for years to rebuild their homes and lives in the aftermath of Jeanne. But the Army Reserve Soldiers in Haiti representing engineer, military police, medical, water purification and other base support operations will return home with the knowledge that they made a difference, even if it was "a drop in the ocean."

There is a proverb in Haiti's rich and diverse culture. In Kreyol it is "Nan pwen priye' k pa gen ame'n." It means "There is no prayer without amen."

Amen. ARM

Update on OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

PHOTO: SSG MATTHEW ACOSTA

Army Reserve SFC Dallas Bryan, 467th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, scans down a road for on-coming traffic. The unit patrols roads in BaQubah, Iraq, looking for improvised explosive devices planted by insurgents.

TENNESSEE ENGINEERS SEARCH FOR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES, SAVE LIVES

By SSG Matthew Acosta
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAQUBAH, Iraq — In an effort to make Iraqi roads safer for fellow Soldiers, an Army Reserve company of combat engineers patrol selected roads near Baqubah, Iraq, searching for "trouble."

Soldiers from Company A, 467th Engineer Battalion, Memphis, Tenn., recently took over operations from the 141st Engineer Battalion, North Dakota National Guard, at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, continuing the mission known as Operation Trailblazer.

Their mission is focused on searching pre-determined supply routes in the Baqubah area for Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) planted by insurgents.

"Our job is to go out and look for trouble in the form of IEDs planted near the roadside" said SFC Dallas Bryan, combat engineer, Company A, 467th Engineer Battalion.

With teams of 18 Soldiers or more, the "Trailblazers" set out on convoys of several supporting vehicles and one Buffalo, scouring the roadside for signs of terrorist activity.

The Buffalo, a ground mine detection system, uses a hydraulic arm to sift through trash piles or probe areas where IEDs may be hidden.

"Between a few rotating teams, we search the roads several times a day looking for conspicuous things that might be used to conceal explosives, such as piles of trash, containers, or anything that looks like it's out of the ordinary, such as freshly patched potholes in the road or new road signs close to the road's edge," Bryan said.

When a team finds a suspicious looking site, Bryan said they close off the road and send in the Buffalo. If an IED is confirmed, the unit marks the coordinates and calls for the explosive ordinance disposal unit to neutralize the device.

"We do not detonate the device; that's explosive ordnance disposal's job," he added.

Since the unit has taken over, they have been credited with finding three explosive devices in the first few days of patrols.

"The more stuff (explosives) we find, the less that's out there with the intent to kill an American Soldier," said SGT Michael Cochran, gunner, 467th Engineer Battalion. "It's a dangerous job but it needs to be done."

Although the unit travels at a relatively slow speed, the fear of being attacked doesn't faze the crew much.

"We really can't drive too fast, because by the time we see a device it'll be too late to stop before it goes off on us or the next vehicle," said Bryan. "We need to keep a slow steady pace — and if we suspect something, we call in the Buffalo."

Bryan said once they get their minds on the job and start the mission, their focus is on the road. A .50 caliber gunner protects each of the vehicles.

"Everyone deals with the stress of what we do in different ways," said SPC James Acker, combat engineer, Company A, 467th Engineer Battalion. "But once we get going we concentrate on what we're doing and if we find something, it's more of an adrenaline rush."

PHOTO: SSG MATTHEW ACOSTA

Army Reserve SFC Dallas Bryan, 467th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, communicates with team members while on patrol searching for improvised explosive devices planted by insurgents. The team runs several patrols daily clearing coalition supply routes around BaQubah, Iraq.

Normally the Trailblazers cruise the routes looking for explosives, but sometimes they will encounter a vehicle they think needs to be searched because of a tip from an Iraqi traffic checkpoint.

"We do anything we need to do to make the roads safer," said Cochran. "If we feel we need to pull a vehicle over to search it, we'll do it, then go back to where we left off, searching the roadside."

For the Trailblazers of the 467th Engineer Battalion, the job has just begun. Since the operation started countless numbers of ordnance and IEDs have been removed from the streets of Iraq, preventing civilian and military casualties.

"As long as we have an eventful day finding an IED or two, that's one less possible casualty," said Bryan. "And if we don't have an eventful day, then it's another quiet day for us, and that's not a bad thing either."

PHOTO: SSG MATTHEW ACOSTA

Army Reserve combat engineers, 467th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, employ the "Buffalo" to search suspicious trash piles thought to contain or hide improvised explosive devices. The vehicle's hydraulic arm is used to probe the suspected sites. If an IED is found, the unit calls the explosive ordinance disposal unit and closes the road until the device is neutralized.

CIVIL AFFAIRS SOLDIERS CONDUCT FRIENDLY PATROLS TO ASSIST IRAQIS

By SSG Raymond Drumsta
Public Affairs Office
Task Force Liberty

TIKRIT, Iraq — Soldiers had their game faces on rolling out of the gate in armored Humvees with loaded weapons and body armor — just as they had during previous forays outside the wire at Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Iraq.

But this patrol had a friendly face because it was from the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit based in Danbury, Conn. Supporting the commander in his relationship with the local population is civil affairs' main mission, said Battalion Commander LTC Edwin Miranda.

"You want to give the impression that you're here to help," he said. "You want to build relationships."

The battalion's civil affairs Soldiers are doing that — and more — in Task Force (TF) Liberty's area of operations.

On a recent patrol, Soldiers of the battalion's headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) hit the streets to talk to Iraqi businessmen, assess the effects of Iraq's recent elections on business, and ask about establishing a chamber of commerce, said Civil Affairs Team Chief SSG John Imperato.

"The goal was to get the feel of the business community, to gauge their thoughts about a chamber of commerce, and to see if they would participate," added SGT Michael Rothermel, civil affairs team sergeant and interpreter.

Self-reliance is the ultimate goal, Miranda said. "The Iraqis need to get back on their feet and back to work," he said. "They need to take a vested interest in their own affairs."

Prior to being mobilized with the Army Reserve, Imperato was a Bedford, N.Y., police officer. During the patrol, he moved from business to business like a cop walking his beat, chatting easily through an interpreter to Tikrit business owners. "I can read people well. I'm used to dealing with people on foot patrol," Imperato said, referring to his police experience. "What I'm doing here is similar. I still have to be on my guard."

Balancing security and sociability is difficult, Miranda said. "We have to find a balance between force protection and conducting civil-military operations. Civil affairs Soldiers can protect themselves just like other Soldiers, while treating civilians with respect — something all Soldiers should do.

"The average Soldier must fully understand the rules of engagement," he continued. "He must understand in a split second who is the enemy, and who are the civilians. The average Soldier should remember that, like civil affairs Soldiers, they are ambassadors. While they are expected to defend themselves, they should treat Iraqis with dignity and respect. It's not easy. In this environment, anyone can come out from the crowd and kill you."

That's why Imperato, Rothermel and an Iraqi official walked the streets surrounded by a moving perimeter of 360-degree security provided by American and Iraqi Soldiers.

There was no negative feedback from the business owners with whom they spoke, Imperato said.

"And we learned that they're all excited about starting a chamber of commerce," he added. "They said that if they all came together to pool their resources, they could improve the economy."

"The response was great," Rothermel said. "They're looking forward to having a chamber of commerce. One thing we're giving them, which they never had before, is a voice. Now they can discuss how they'll collaborate and pool their resources."

The next step, Rothermel said, will be for Iraqis to pick chamber of commerce representatives who will communicate their concerns. "You can only meet so many needs," he said. "You want to help everyone, but you can only help some of them. You do what you can. You can't let that burden weigh you down."

Once they were approached by an Iraqi family whose home was destroyed by a mortar round, Rothermel recalled. The family was seeking shelter — something the civil affairs Soldiers couldn't provide. What they could supply, however, was food and hygiene items from the stock they always have handy, and information on how to get in touch with an Iraqi government agency that could help. "Sometimes we can only point people in the right direction," Rothermel said. "That helps them more than we could help them on our own."

"We're structuring a government," Imperato said. "If we can get the smaller government organizations running smoothly, and the Iraqi police and Iraqi Army up to speed, things will be great."

The unit is also training an Iraqi force to take over the civil affairs mission, Imperato said. "They do well. They go out once a week by themselves."

Currently the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion is coordinating projects in TF Liberty's area of operations amounting to $8 million said CPT Tammie Perreault, the battalion personnel officer. These include minor school renovations, urban clean-up by local labor, preservation of Iraqi historic sites and improvement of Iraqi government facilities.

PHOTO: SSG RAYMOND DRUMSTA

SSG John Imperato, center, Rhinebeck, N.Y., team chief in the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, speaks with an Iraqi businessman (right) through an interpreter during a patrol through Tikrit's marketplace. The mission of the patrol was to make contact with members of Tikrit's business community.

Miranda said that HHC is supporting the 42nd Infantry Division, and his other companies are supporting TF Liberty's combat teams. The civil affairs Soldiers helped coordinate elections with local officials. The battalion's public health team recently conducted a health assessment in Samarra and was able to provide Iraqi health professionals with new medical equipment, sanitation support and medical reference material. "It's rewarding when you see needs and issues being resolved and taken care of," Miranda said.

Rothermel "absolutely loves" civil affairs work. "Having a positive effect on people's lives here, as we do, is very rewarding," he said.

80TH DIVISION TO BEGIN CRITICAL MISSION OF TRAINING THE IRAQI ARMY

By SPC Travis Edwards
Public Affairs Office
80th Division (Institutional Training)

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — "Call headquarters and tell them the 80th Division is now fully trained and ready for deployment," declared BG John P. McLaren, assistant division commander of the 80th Division (Institutional Training), during the unit's farewell ceremony July 23, 2005 at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

PHOTO: SPC TRAVIS EDWARDS

The division's mission is critical to the stabilization of Iraq and is already in the center spotlight of the international community. The 80th Division's mission will be to provide military assistance and training to the Iraqi National Army by working with and instructing Iraqi troops, establishing training academies and providing leadership development to the growing Iraqi Army, said McLaren.

"Our Soldiers have trained hard for months, working 18-hour days. They are ready for anything they might encounter," said McLaren, who will serve as the commander of the troops departing for Operation Iraqi Freedom. "Over the past 90 days we have trained our Soldiers for every eventuality that they may run into."

The 80th Division's training included performing convoy operations, identifying and negotiating improvised explosive devices, providing cultural and language training, conducting live fire exercises and military operations in urban terrain and other tasks that will assist the unit in their mission.

SFC Andrew Funk, 7th Brigade, 80th Division, said, "The most important thing to come out of this training was our joining together as a team. We are able to work together like fluid motion. In the end, it was the noncommissioned officers' professionalism that allowed this change to occur, not the training. I feel very confident in the professionals I'll be working with in Iraq."

The unit received brand new weapons, state-of-the-art uniforms and a lot of personal equipment during their training at Camp Atterbury, giving the Soldiers time to break in the new gear, according to McLaren.

The living conditions and training environment the Soldiers experience at Camp Atterbury are similar to the type of situations they're likely see in Iraq. This "theater immersion" training is common at mobilization stations across the Army.

The unit will deploy more than 700 Soldiers over several weeks to replace the 98th Division (Institutional Training) which has been training the Iraqi Army since 2004.

Their mission, like all military operations, is not without danger. The 98th Division had five Soldiers killed in action during their tour in Iraq.

"We know there will be dangers and challenges," said SSG Kenneth Norman, 6th Battalion, 80th Regiment, 4th Brigade, 80th Division, part of a small team of American Soldiers who will lead a battalion of Iraqis on patrols and train them to conduct their own military operations. "The 80th Division will help teach Iraqi Soldiers to run their own strong and self-sufficient Army. That is a mission that is worth the dangers and challenges." ARM

Family members and Soldiers of the 80th Training Division listen to guest speaker, LTG Russel L. Honore, First U.S. Army commanding general, during the unit's farewell ceremony July 23 at Camp Atterbury, Ind. More than 700 Soldiers from the 80th Division will deploy to train and support the Iraqi National Army during a year long tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

FEATURES

United Service Organizations Proudly Serve Those Who Serve

By Donna St. John
USO World Headquarters

On April 23, 2005, the U.S. Army Reserve celebrated its 97th birthday. The United Service Organizations (USO) World headquarters has agreed to partner with the Army Reserve to expand their services into hometown USA. For more than 64 years, the USO has been a steadfast supporter of military personnel around the world. While times have changed, the USO mission has remained the same: to boost the morale of service members and serve as their link to the American people.

"We play a huge role in filling the void in the lives of our men and women in uniform," said USO President and Chief Executive Officer Edward A. Powell. "The USO remains the most effective way to communicate to service members the concern and thanks of a grateful nation."

The USO was created in 1941 in response to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's challenge to private organizations to handle the on-leave recreational needs of the U.S. armed forces. Since then, the USO has worked to improve the lives of those who serve, as well as their families. A nonprofit organization, the USO operates 121 centers worldwide and supports service members with the help of a cadre of volunteers, dedicated employees, and donations from individuals, corporations and organizations.

Programs and services include free Internet and e-mail access, libraries and reading rooms, housing and travel assistance, support groups, game rooms, nursery facilities, prepaid international and domestic phone cards and celebrity entertainment.

In addition to its clear sense of mission, the USO is uniquely able to adapt to the changing needs of the people it serves. To meet the increasing demand for services within the last few years, new centers were opened in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Qatar to support service members participating in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Other centers were opened in Vicenza, Italy, and at the Dallas/Forth Worth and Raleigh-Durham International Airports.

The USO also initiated two special programs, Operation USO Care Package and USO Operation Phone Home for troops deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. The Care Packages contain items requested by service members, including toiletries, lip balm, sun screen and snacks.

Under the Operation Phone Home program, the USO buys prepaid international phone cards in bulk, distributing them to deployed service members to help them reach out to their loved ones.

The USO welcomes troops through airport centers, giving battle-weary and battle-ready military travelers a place to rest. Family and community centers promote intercultural understanding and orientation to unfamiliar locations, and mobile canteens reach out to troops in remote and sometimes unstable locations around the world.

Much of the day-to-day work at USO centers is carried out by a network of more than 30,000 volunteers who are the heart of the USO. While their duties vary, USO volunteers have one common interest: to assist service members and their families

IMAGE: COURTESY USO

PHOTO: MIKE THEILER

A Soldier stays connected to family and friends in the second-floor lounge of the USO Center at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

however they can. Whether it's helping a Soldier make a connecting flight, distributing a care package, serving snacks, providing local information, or welcoming troops home from deployments, volunteers are vital to the USO's legacy.

That legacy also includes the contributions of celebrities who volunteer their time to visit and entertain service members through the USO's Celebrity Entertainment Program. In 2004, the USO, in partnership with the Department of Defense Armed Forces Entertainment Office, produced more than 50 tours, treating more than 375,000 service members in 22 countries to celebrity visits. Recent tour participants include Toby Keith, Gary Sinise, James Gandolfini, Robin Williams, David Letterman, Wayne Newton, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis.

The USO tradition is to be there for our armed forces, wherever they may be sent — and the USO is also there for the families they leave behind, until every Soldier comes home.

A USO volunteer at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport distributes Operation USO Care Packages to troops returning to Iraq and Afghanistan after their two weeks of R&R. Thousands of service members pass through the airport each month, each one receiving a Care Package.

PHOTO: MIKE THEILER

Army Reserve Soldiers Add Realism to Convoy Security Operations Using Paintball

By Jack Gordon
Public Affairs Office
99th Regional Readiness Command

BREEZEWOOD, Pa. — A direct hit sounds like an egg cracking against a wall, and almost etches the comic book scrawl "splat" across the text section of the page's sound bubble in my mind. Splat — a round, soft-skinned pellet filled with paint strikes the Kevlar helmet of the Soldier whose facial features are barely discernable beneath the black plastic safety mask. Splat! The paintball pellet finds its mark — and although it's only paint, the impact and "reality factor" of a head and face strike during this training produces an audible cry from the Soldier, who dutifully falls to the ground as all were instructed to do in the pre-training brief. For this phase of the exercise lane, he has been killed in action. If the head strike had been real, the Soldier probably would have sustained severe wounds, even with Kevlar protection.

Approximately 70 Soldiers from various units of the 99th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) have traveled to Breezewood, Pa., to undergo an evolutionary block of training conducted by the command's Operations and Training section. The specialized training is for Soldiers headed to the dangerous highways of Iraq. Conceptualized, developed and implemented by the 99th, convoy security lanes training is now incorporated into the unit validation process of every Army Reserve unit at its designated mobilization site. The ability to conduct convoy security operations is a critical aspect of learning how to survive in Iraq. This training is early preparation — *extra* preparation.

The training comprises three phases — a classroom study in standard operating procedures of convoy operations, including things like potential threat briefings for the convoy route, attack and ambush reaction and response plans, and rally and consolidation points. Rules of engagement, which used to be much more sensitive in a time and world that now seems lost in the chaos of random and directed urban violence, are simple. 'If you feel threatened, do not hesitate to respond with appropriate force." Needless to say, if the situation is life-threatening, deadly force is authorized and fully supported.

[Right] Several hits on the door gunner required assistance on the ground. (PHOTO BY JACK GORDON)

PHOTO: JACK GORDON

A young Soldier scans the tree line in search of telltale movement during the ambush.

Indeed, part of the training is getting Soldiers into the mindset of reacting to threat situations quickly — not authorizing a "free-fire zone," as areas were once designated in Vietnam, where anything or anybody was considered enemy. Training emphasizes prior and prudent assessment. Fresh troops in a combat zone generally fall into two categories — they are either compelled to track everyone in their assigned fire sector (and may potentially become trigger-happy), or they are reluctant and subsequently far too slow on the draw when facing down a probable enemy.

The use of paintball in training changes that. When you're hit, you know it — you feel it. There is actual impact and the paint splatters reflect what could, in battle, represent wounds to you or your buddy — or shrapnel spray patterns, vehicle-disabling hits, or worse.

Some of the Soldiers will be deploying to Iraq for the second time, and are well aware of the danger. Their personal experiences are underscored by recent news stories detailing ambushes and attacks on U.S. convoys, patrol vehicles and at the gates of Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) throughout Iraq. Suicide bombers with high explosive-lined vests, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs) are part of the training scenarios, as well as friendly Iraqis who pose no threat, but whose innocent actions compounded by the language and cultural barriers could foster further uncertainty in the streets.

Recently, four Pennsylvania National Guardsmen from Pittsburgh who were conducting a routine patrol in a Humvee in Iraq were hit by a VBIED. All narrowly escaped death. Their vehicle was reduced to twisted wreckage. Were it not for the rapid and skilled response of their fellow Soldiers, who doused them with dozens of bottles of water, freed them from the wreckage of the smoldering vehicle, and administered first aid to traumatic wounds, the Soldiers might not be slowly recovering at stateside military medical care facilities today.

Realistic training is crucial to raising awareness and preparing Soldiers for the harsh realities they will face in Iraq. With paintball hits, they know — they see — how devastating an ambush or attack can be, or how complex and confusing an ordinary mission could become with civilians roaming in and around an area of operations — any of whom might be concealing or driving a bomb.

As the paint pellets fired by the "enemy" find their intended targets, and as paint covers the vehicles and splatters against the battle dress uniforms of the Soldiers, lessons learned include seeking cover and concealment against an armed and attacking enemy, returning suppressive fire and exercising fire direction control during movement to a more secure rally point area, and quickly caring for casualties.

Communication — making hand and arm signals, using vehicle lights or horns to alert other vehicle drivers in the convoy, using radio or mobile cellular lines to issue verbal commands — is perhaps the greatest key to success and survival of the mobile military element. Effective command and control, these Soldiers are learning, is achieved through good communication.

The action is halted after every scenario by the observer-controller training team, who then conduct on-the-spot after-action reviews with open, two-way discourse and tactical overview critiques. The paintball convoy lanes are phase II of the convoy security training. Phase III is an actual live fire from moving vehicles. Soldiers can wash this paint off their uniform — but the blood that could stain the same uniforms in Iraq will be much — both physically and emotionally — to remove.

This training will provide the strategic response abilities Soldiers need to avoid or minimize casualties in America's continuing effort in the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq.

PHOTO: JACK GORDON

The use of smoke created chaos after visibility was limited and the convoy was trapped.

U.S. Joint Military Skills Training Center Produces Winning Results

By MSG D. Keith Johnson
Public Affairs Office
U.S. Joint Forces Military Skills Training Center

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — The 2005 U.S. Joint Forces Leader Development and Advanced Military Skills Training course came to a close July 16, 2005, as the top performers were rewarded and selections to the U.S. Joint Forces Military Competitions team were announced. The U.S. team proceeded to the NATO Military Skills Competition in Belgium, winning silver medals in several categories.

The course was given at the U.S. Joint Forces Military Skills Training Center (USJFMSTC) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Participants were trained at highly advanced levels in map reading and land navigation, rifle and pistol marksmanship, and land and water confidence courses, will return to their units as resident expert instructors. Participants also receive training in leadership development, the law of war, combat first aid including CPR certification and selected fitness and nutrition topics developed by the Army Physical Fitness School.

"Our purpose is to assemble a world-class staff to provide advanced level training in critical warrior skills over a three-week period," said LTC Robert Thompson, of Daytona Beach, Fla., the training officer for the Center. "The course is demanding with unit readiness the ultimate objective. Our students take what they've learned here back to their units."

By the end of the course, expert instructors from all services, active and reserve, had devoted more than 40 hours to land navigation and more than 20 hours each on rifle and pistol marksmanship.

Officers, cadets and one midshipman spent three weeks going through some of the most physically and mentally demanding training most have seen, or will see, throughout their military careers. In addition, drill sergeants from the 344th Military Intelligence Battalion, Navy SEALs from Special Operations Central Command (SOCCENT), marksmanship instructors from the Small Arms Readiness Group and members of the 108th Training Division (Institutional Training) attended portions of the marksmanship and land navigation training.

Although it was a physical challenge for the first time attendees, they also had high regards for the training they received.

"This is the best training I've ever received in my career," said Army Reserve COL Jeffrey Stuart, of Ogden, Utah, a Special Forces officer for 23 years — a sentiment shared by many of the participants.

Awards were given out during the end of class dinner to the top performers. For 2005, Army Reserve LTC Clai Gardner, San Antonio, Texas, took all three top shooter awards for pistol, rifle and combined.

Fifteen participants were chosen to represent the United States on the Military Competitions Team at the NATO Military Skills Competition in Belgium during the first week of August 2005.

EVERYTHING IS COMING UP SILVER

Since October 2004, the Joint Forces Military Skills Center has trained over 600 active and reserve Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in advanced marksmanship and land navigation skills. To become members of the U.S. Military Skills Team, candidates must complete the rigorous three-week course offered during the summer. The top students from that course go on to compete in the NATO competition.

The NATO Military Skills Competition is an annual contest for reserve officers, cadets and midshipmen consisting of 200-meter rifle marksmanship, 25-meter pistol marksmanship, 500-meter land obstacle course, 50-meter water obstacle course and a 10-to 15-kilometer orienteering course involving advanced land navigation skills. Also included in the competition is combat first aid and laws of armed conflict.

The competition falls under the auspices of the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers, formed in 1947 as part of NATO's efforts to further common goals among the NATO allies. A different NATO country hosts the event every year.

This year's competitors included 53 three-person teams of 159 competitors from 17 countries. Each country can send up to six men's teams, two women's teams and up to four alternates. The alternates are placed on international teams to compete in that category. The United States had one novice team, two veteran teams and one women's team this year, plus three alternates who competed on international teams.

U.S. teams earned the silver medal at the NATO Military Skills Competition in three categories, including women's team, novice team and overall. One member of the men's team won the gold medal for the combined shooting event.

Naval Reserve LTCDR Grant Staats, Air Force Reserve MAJ Joel Winton and Army Reserve MAJ Larry Gnewuch took the silver medal for overall out of the 53 teams. Staats, a SEAL who serves as the land navigation officer-in-charge at the USJFM STC, had high praises for his teammates, who were both competing for the second time.

PHOTO: MSG D. KEITH JOHNSON

MAJ Mike Zinno slides through the pillbox during the land obstacle course at the NATO Military Skills Competition.

"The two teammates I had with me this year, I could not have asked for a better performance out of them," said Staats of Rensselaer, N.Y. "The performance they put into it, and the outcome and results of what they put into it, totally determined how well I performed. The team did well because of what they put into it."

"The positive reinforcement, the dedication to peak performance in every event was outstanding," said Winton. "They have been two of the best teammates I've ever had. It's was a privilege to not only compete, but to serve with them both."

Marine Corps Reserve MAJ Daryl Remick, Army Reserve MAJ Mike Zinno and Army Reserve LTC Clai Gardner won the gold medal for team marksmanship in combined shooting.

"My personal goal, because I knew we could do it, was to win the marksmanship. I knew we had the ability, and we did it," said Remick, of Forsyth, Ga.

"They are competing at a level that requires 18 to 20 hours per week of intensive physical training for a minimum of nine months."
— LTC Robert Thompson

One aspect of this year's land navigation competition was the consensus that it was a lot more physical than expected. Parts of the 11.5-kilometer course, for example, went through the internal workings of a dam, then climbed back up the spillway, then up a hill, then up a 100-foot tower for a slide for life to the bottom.

"This was one of the most physically demanding competitions I've ever been a part of," said Gnewuch, a U.S. Military Academy graduate and former team captain of the West Point basketball team.

"There were a lot of miles between points," said Zinno, of Pensacola, Fla. "Very tough." Zinno tried out for the team after spending a year deployed to Iraq.

In terms of winning, Thompson, captain of the competition team, sums up this year's performance.

"Team members trained exceptionally long and hard, on their own time, for several months to achieve these high marks," he said. "They are competing at a level that requires 18 to 20 hours per week of intensive physical training for a minimum of nine months. But the real win begins after the competition is over, when these officers return to their units to serve as resident expert instructors to increase the readiness of their units."

More information is available at the USJFMSTC Web site, **www.uscior.army.mil**.

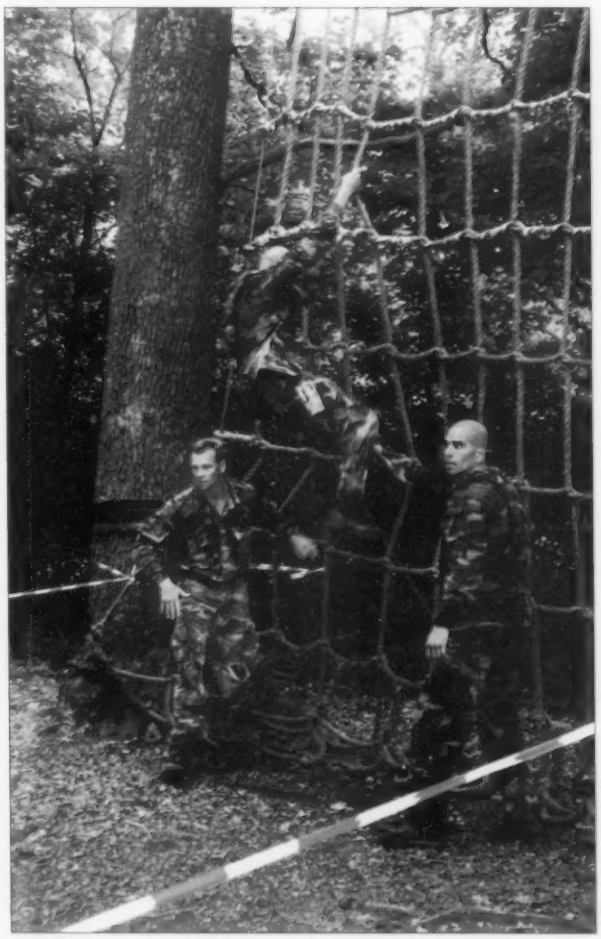

PHOTO: MSG D. KEITH JOHNSON

Navy Reserve LTCDR Grant Staats, left, and Army Reserve MAJ Larry Gnewuch wait on teammate Air Force Reserve MAJ Joel Winton to climb down from the cargo net as part of the orienteering course during the NATO Military Skills Competition.

History Collection Plan Gathers, Records Wartime Contributions of USAR Soldiers

By Dennis Hatcher
Military History Task Force

Throughout its long and illustrious history, the U.S. Army Reserve has never had a dedicated resource to capture and record the Warrior-Citizen's role and contributions to our national defense — until now.

As a direct result of the terrorist attacks on the cities of New York and Washington, D.C., in September 2001, the powerful resources of the Army Reserve have been mobilized in numbers not seen since the advent of World War II. Indeed, the War on Terrorism has reached global proportions, touching nearly every nation. Unlike the years since World War II, however, there is now a determined effort by the Office of Army Reserve History to gather and accurately record the wartime contributions made by Army Reserve Soldiers and the sacrifices of their families. This effort is officially known as The Global War on Terrorism History Collection Plan.

The idea for the History Collection Plan had its origin in 2001 but did not come to fruition until 2003, when the Military History Task Force was formed under the auspices of the Office of Army Reserve History at Fort McPherson, Ga. Comprising a small team of dedicated Soldier historians, the Task Force developed a mission statement committed to capturing, archiving, preserving and publishing the histories of Army Reserve units engaged in support of the war before that knowledge is lost.

This was no small undertaking in an environment of personnel shortages and tight operating budgets, for a program no one had ever before attempted to design. A rudimentary but workable initial plan emerged for the collection of Army Reserve unit historical materials. That plan was disseminated throughout the Army Reserve via the Citizen-Warrior/Warrior-Citizen message.

Raw historical data from demobilizing units began to slowly accumulate in the Task Force's filing cabinets in the form of narratives, autobiographical sketches, photographs and mobilization orders.

By April 2004, with only one officer remaining to handle the massive workload, the Task Force was in danger of dissolving completely without having reached its goal. For the next six months, MAJ Ward Zischke kept the Task Force alive and operating by soliciting and collecting ever-increasing historical data from Reserve units. Relief came in October 2004 with the hiring of four contracted personnel to administer the Task Force and manage the more than 4,000 unit historical files that had accumulated since the program had begun in earnest in 2003.

Today, the Military History Task Force is headed by myself and administered by Archival Aides Yvonne Jolly, Zana Chattman and Jill Forniss. Zischke advises and assists when necessary.

The History Collection Plan has recently undergone major revisions to streamline, clarify and better define the mission of the Task Force and its impact on Army Reserve policies and regulations. New incentives and programs, such as the Top Ten Program, were developed to expedite the publishing and circulation of the best unit histories received each calendar quarter. This new and exciting program continues to take on a life of its own as more and more Army Reserve units compete for this prestigious distinction.

The quarterly Historical Liaison Officer Workshops, a training program initiated by Zischke, has undergone significant changes and expansion of the training curriculum. A Historical Collection Plan Handbook recently hit the field as a ready guide for mobilized units on the requirements and techniques of successful history collection. More future incentives are being designed to help make the History Collection Plan exciting and rewarding for Soldiers.

Soldiers need to understand that the Historical Collection Plan is not just to record unit history, lineage and honors. It is also personal. It is the chance that Reserve Soldiers and their families have been waiting decades to experience: the telling of their stories for future generations, so that the sons and daughters of today and those yet to come can know what you, the Warrior-Citizen and family did during the Global War on Terrorism and in future wars.

For those Warrior-Citizens who paid the ultimate price, and for their families who have borne the unbearable, we have an obligation to preserve history. Abraham Lincoln said it most eloquently with his immortal words uttered to the gathered masses in the little town of Gettysburg, Pa., in 1863: "It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain."

For more information on the History Collection Plan, the Military History Task Force mission or available training, contact the Military History Task Force at: (404) 464-8882 or **gwothistory@usar.army.mil**. ARM

(Editors note: Future issues of *Army Reserve Magazine* will feature historical vignettes of selected units and their role in the Global War on Terrorism)

People

MG KENNEDY RELINQUISHES COMMAND AS FIRST FEMALE RRC COMMANDER

By Jack Gordon
Public Affairs Office
99th Regional Readiness Command

CORAOPOLIS, Pa. — On Aug. 13, 2005, the Army Reserve's first female Regional Readiness commander, MG Karol A. Kennedy, relinquished command of the 99th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) to MG William H. Johnson in a traditional and symbolic ceremony.

Kennedy, who was actually at a meeting in the Pentagon when it was struck during the 9/11 attacks on America, led the 99th through the initial mobilizations of its Soldiers — the first within 24 hours — and through the next difficult three years as the command mobilized and deployed more units and Soldiers than anyone ever imagined. Some of her Soldiers, eight to date, never returned, having made the ultimate sacrifice.

Kennedy's command tenure was at a time when the 99th rose to the demands of meeting short-notice mobilizations and diverse missions, first in the United States for Operation Noble Eagle through Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq, and in the Iraqi theater of military operations. The 99th RRC, command and control headquarters, has overseen and directed training and operations and provided service support for units and Soldiers in a three-to five-state area since 1967.

The reins of the 99th have been passed to Johnson, who returned from Kuwait in July 2005 after serving a year-long tour of duty at several locations as a senior director of logistics operations. He brings a wealth of fresh field experience to the 99th, with a full and intimate knowledge of deployment challenges and how to meet assigned mission requirements.

After accepting the 99th flag, Johnson vowed to carry forth the tradition of excellence first established by Soldiers of the 99th Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge in WW II — some of whom were present for the event.

PHOTO: JACK GORDON

MG (Ret.) Karol Kennedy greets well-wishers after the ceremony.

TELLING YOUR STORY TODAY HELPS RECRUIT THE ARMY RESERVE SOLDIER OF TOMORROW

By MAJ Cheryl Phillips
Advertising and Marketing Office
U.S. Army Reserve

You're making history as an Army Reserve Soldier. The media touts you as a member of "the next greatest generation," and rightly so. But we can't rely on the media to tell a story that only you can tell.

It doesn't matter if you're sporting Desert Camouflage Uniform, Battle Dress Uniform, Army Combat Uniform, business suit, athletic clothing or casual attire. You're an Army Reserve Soldier proudly serving your community, family and country. The Army Reserve needs you to tell your friends, your neighbors, your employer, your community, and your nation what it means to be an Army Reserve Soldier.

People in your hometown and across the country are eager to hear your personal one-of-a-kind story of why you became an Army Reserve Soldier. Look for opportunities to share your experiences with potential future Soldiers, their parents, guidance counselors, coaches, civic leaders, and employers. They're interested and eager for your unique perspective to help them get a better understanding of what it means to serve your community and nation as an Army Reserve Soldier.

Army research reveals that Army Reserve prospects and the people who play an influential role in their major life decisions want information directly from people who, like you, proudly wear the uniform.

When you tell your story, you are doing two important things. First, you are directly helping Army Reserve recruiters by sharing in their challenging mission. You're planting a seed in a future Army Reserve Soldier's mind. Second, you're building a legacy of future strength for the Army Reserve.

Tell interested people to visit the Army and Army Reserve recruiting Web site (GoArmy.com and GoArmyReserve.com).

Take a moment or two to think about why you joined the Army Reserve and why you continue to serve. Maybe you wanted to master a particular skill that you could use in the civilian workplace. Or maybe you were compelled to sign up because of a higher calling motivating you to give something of yourself to the nation. Possibly the camaraderie and teamwork you experience keeps you motivated. Or perhaps you like the challenge of doing new things in new places. Whatever your reasons, they come together to form a unique story that only you can share.

Tell interested people to visit the Army and Army Reserve recruiting Web site (**GoArmy.com** and **GoArmyReserve.com**) to chat with a recruiter and get loads of information on Soldier life, deployment, career opportunities, benefits and more. At the site, they can also complete an e-form for additional information or find the Army Reserve Recruiter closest to their home.

Be sure to ask your unit commander and first sergeant what incentives are in place in your unit for actively "referring a friend" to an Army Reserve recruiter, or for participating in Operation SMART — Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team. You'll get a certificate and coin from the Sergeant of the Army for any referral of a potential applicant who enlists in the Army Reserve or regular Army. You can "refer a friend" online at **www.usarec.army.mil/smart**.

Operation SMART — Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team

Also, talk to your public affairs officer to learn about outreach opportunities where you can tell your story at public events, civic luncheons, chamber of commerce meetings, unit open house activities, Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen celebrations, school career days, and more. He or she will help you connect to your community.

Everyone has a story — tell yours today!

PHOTO: U.S. ARMY

CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE HONORED BY RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION WITH MINUTEMAN AWARD

By Jack Gordon
Public Affairs Office
99th Regional Readiness Command

NEW YORK — LTG James R. Helmly, Chief, Army Reserve and commanding general, U.S. Army Reserve Command, was presented the Reserve Officer Association (ROA) "Minuteman" award for 2005, along with Rear Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., commander 9th Coast Guard District.

> "...I'm immensely proud to be an American Soldier." — LTG James R. Helmly

"I thought I saw some puzzled looks when, during the service anthems, I remained standing. I must tell you I'm *immensely* proud to be an American Soldier," Helmly told more than 500 guests gathered for the annual, national convention. The comment drew a rousing round of applause.

"But I am *equally* proud to be among America's Armed Forces, and so I chose to stand in order to pay tribute to *all* our Armed Services," said Helmly. The applause increased fourfold as representatives from the other service branches represented joined in.

Part of the pride Helmly was feeling was no doubt being the recipient of this prestigious award. In 2002, the ROA had selected President George W. Bush for the award.

As he is prone to, Helmly quickly placed the true honor on those in uniform now serving America's armed forces abroad in the world's many danger zones. Having returned only days prior from a tour of Army Reserve mission sites in both Iraq and Afghanistan, his recent memories from experiences with those on duty in the mountains and desert were fresh.

> "These sons and daughters of America are serving us proudly and with courage and distinction in every corner of every dangerous area on the planet." — LTG James R. Helmly

"I'm indeed humbled and honored to receive this award on behalf of America's sons and daughters — those who populate the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. We are richly served by all these great Americans," Helmly said.

"These sons and daughters of America are serving us proudly and with courage and distinction in every corner of every dangerous area on the planet. I know the Reserve Officers Association will continue to champion the cause of our Armed Forces, so...I am deeply honored to accept this award — it's one of the highlights of my life." ARM

PHOTO: JACK GORDON

MG Robert A. Nester Ret., right, then national president of Reserve Officer Association, presents the Minuteman award for 2005 to LTG James R. Helmly, Chief, Army Reserve.

ARMY RESERVE TUGBOAT CROSSES THE ATLANTIC

By MAJ Hillary Anne Luton
70th Regional Readiness Command
LTC Matt Leonard
Army Reserve Public Affairs

Is it the call of the sea that makes some Soldiers spend days or weeks or months sailing across the ocean? Is it the tilt of 128 feet of steel at 12 knots on calm waters? Or is it simply the desire to accomplish a demanding mission that few Army Reserve Soldiers will ever face?

Perhaps the answer was "all of the above" for 23 Army Reserve Soldier-mariners who recently volunteered for a truly unique mission. These "salty" Soldiers navigated and sailed the *MG Henry Knox* Large Tug (LT-802) from Tacoma, Wash., to Hythe, England, in a mission that is believed to be the longest open-ocean tugboat mission in the U.S. Army Reserve's watercraft history.

"This has been the most challenging Army mission and an excellent training operation," said CW3 Tom Dike, 3rd mate.

Before the *Knox* could set sail on this historic 10,000-nautical mile mission, a top-notch crew had to be assembled. While the majority of the crew came from the 467th Transportation Company, volunteers also represented the 175th Transportation Company and the 805th Transportation Detachment, all from Tacoma, Wash., as well as the 949th Transportation Company, Baltimore, Md., and the 81st Regional Readiness Command (RRC).

"We had a composite of multiple units, and the Soldiers came together seamlessly," said CW4 Mike Christiansen, 1st mate.

Over 5 1/2 months and countless hours were dedicated to preparing both crew and vessel for the journey that would take them over two oceans, one sea and the Gulf of Mexico.

On May 24, 2005, they were ready and the *Knox* set sail. The route began in Tacoma, Wash., and in making various fueling stops along the way, they headed south along the Pacific coast to Panama. There the inspection authorities were very impressed with the condition and maintenance of the watercraft. They commented that the LT-802 was in "the best condition of most vessels" that they have inspected.

After traversing the Panama Canal, the vessel sailed to Fort Eustis, Va. before heading to Saint George, Bermuda. The Knox then stopped at the Atlantic port of Sao Miguel in the Azores Islands, Portugal on its way to England.

"This was a diplomatic mission everywhere we went," said Dike. "The crew was very impressed with how they were

The MG Henry Knox LT-802, right, waits at the docks in Hythe, England as a second tug, the MG Nathanael Greene LT-806, picked-up at Fort Eustis, Va., is pulled into port. The Knox towed the LT-806 across the Atlantic.

PHOTO: MAJ HILLARY ANNE LUTON

PHOTO: MAJ HILLARY ANNE LUTON

CW3 Thomas Sloboda shows MG Lawrence J. Johnson the engine control room as members of the crew prepare for launch from Tacoma, Wash.

treated by the Mexican Navy. The diplomatic relations made with the country were invaluable."

Christiansen added, "We were treated with respect at every port of call."

In addition to the challenges of sailing the Atlantic, the Knox took on an additional challenge when it left port at Fort Eustis. There the vessel departed with a second tug, the *MG Nathanael Greene* LT-806 in tow. "Historically, towing is the most dangerous [underway] mission there is, other than combat," said Dike. Luckily, the Knox had to endure only two days of adverse weather with the LT-806 in tow. "A lot of individuals put in long hours, and we accomplished the mission with no major damage or injuries," said Dike.

While some of these port calls may seem exotic, they were required for fueling stops because the Safety of Use Message requires that 128-foot tugboats maintain no less than 40 percent of their fuel capacity in reserve to maintain stability in the open ocean environment.

Once in England both large tugboats entered the 128-foot tugboat modification program. There the vessel structure and fuel tanks of the tugs will be modified relieving them of the 40 percent fuel restriction. The modifications will be completed by shipwrights at the U.S. Army Combat Equipment Battalion storage facility in Hythe.

A Crew Becomes a Family

Many of the Soldiers aboard the *Knox* had sailed previously; some had been deployed to Kuwait in 2002 on a Logistical Support Vessel (LSV). However, like many military operations, there are always Soldiers who are new to the mission. 1LT Mary Anczarski was one such Soldier. She was recruited from the 81st RRC to go as the crew's physician's assistant to take care of medical needs. Even though she had never sailed the ocean before, she accepted the challenge — knowing that she may never get an opportunity like this again. And despite having to endure her own personal ailments throughout the journey, Anczarski proved to be an invaluable asset. "If something needed her attention, she was there to do it," said Christiansen. "She got herself spun up on vessel specific medical needs and took excellent care of the crew."

When it comes to pulling together to accomplish a mission, the crew of the Knox did that and more. With members of the crew like CW3 Benjamin Kottke and SPC Jon You, the crew became a family.

SPC You was attached from the 174th Maintenance Company as a cook and provided excellent food service support throughout the mission. He quickly excelled and was soon made the cook's permanent assistant. "SPC You is the best assistant in the kitchen that I've ever worked with," said ship's cook, SSG Scott Jenkins.

Jenkins ran the kitchen and ensured the crew was always well-fed. In return every crew member pitched in and cleaned up their own dirty dishes. Jenkins was proud that Christensen, the 1st mate, began referring to him as "the ship's chef" rather than "a cook."

While not a cook by trade, First Engineer Kottke has a passion for baking. By Aug. 2, 2005, when the vessel made port in England, he had used that passion to indulge the crew with more than 300 dozen cookies and endless cinnamon rolls.

In addition to the cooks, two senior NCOs displayed solid leadership through their guidance and execution during this mission. SFC Ryan Smith, boatswain and SFC Beth Rellergert, marine maintenance NCO provided skilled guidance during a very difficult mission. According to CW3 Thomas Johnston, marine maintenance officer for the 385th Transportation Battalion, "they were the key to the success of this mission, both pier side and underway."

Johnston went on to compliment the entire crew to include the motivated and skilled junior enlisted. "Many of the Soldiers on the *Knox* had never sailed in the open ocean before. They excelled at numerous levels on a dangerous and challenging mission."

"Sea Legs": Old and New

For the Soldiers of the Knox, the voyage truly was an opportunity to stretch their sea legs.

For one Soldier, this would be the final leg of his maritime career. In his civilian job, CW4 Charles Liber is a 34-year veteran of the New Jersey State Police Department. In 2000 he retired as a captain with the Marine Police, but continued the military career he had begun decades before with the Marine Corps. After a break in service, a friend talked to him about Army watercraft. So, in 1983, Liber returned to the military — this time to serve with the Army Reserve.

Liber, who is licensed on every watercraft in the Army Reserve inventory, was excited when he received the call for this mission. He quickly volunteered to be the vessel master of the MG Henry Knox. At 59 he knew this would be his last opportunity to undertake an adventure of such magnitude. Shortly after the mission, and after 26 years of service with the military, he would turn 60 and have to retire from the Army Reserve.

Although he looks forward to his retirement and plans to travel across the United States with his wife, he readily admits that he will miss the Soldiers, the camaraderie and, of course, the open water. "I will miss sailing on good days. You can't beat the lure of the sea," said Liber.

Liber's pride in the Knox mission is eclipsed only by the pride of turning the helm over to the next generation. It is very personal for Liber because while in port at Fort Eustis he had the opportunity to swear his son into the U.S. Coast Guard. The family tradition of serving aboard military watercraft continues, and new sea legs are ready to stretch.

CW4 Mike Christiansen brings the tug into the pier at Hythe, England.

PHOTO: MAJ HILLARY ANNE LUTON

ARMY RESERVE SOLDIERS PARTICIPATE IN LARGEST ROMANIAN EXERCISE SINCE WWII

By SFC Derrick Witherspoon
Public Affairs Office
7th Army Reserve Command

BABADAG TRAINING AREA, Romania — Working side-by-side, Army Reserve Soldiers from the 7th Army Reserve Command (ARCOM) trained with their new Romanian allies during the largest bilateral training exercise in Romania since the end of World War II.

Army Reserve Soldiers from the 7th ARCOM participated in Romanian Exercise (ROMEX) 2005 in July, providing force protection to all personnel involved in the event. Thirty-two Army Reserve Soldiers, along with military police from the Romanian Army and an anti-terrorism protection force from Bucharest, provided security for approximately 1,400 military personnel and civilians during ROMEX 2005 in Babadag. Also participating in the exercise, which took place at the Babadag Training Area, were Soldiers from the Active Army, Army National Guard, and Air Force.

Army Reserve units that participated in the exercise were: 1st Armored Division Rear Operations Center, Wiesbaden, Germany; 1172nd Movement Control Team and 345th Rear Area Operations Center, Bamberg, Germany; and the 317th and 309th Rear Area Operations Centers, Wiesbaden, Germany.

As part of their force protection duties, the Army Reserve units were tasked to provide security for the logistical

support area where the personnel involved in the exercise were located and for the local training areas where the American and Romanian Soldiers were training together and to escort various convoys that were traveling to and from the Babadag Training Area. The Army Reserve Soldiers also performed morning and night patrols with the Romanian military police, covering an area of approximately 30,000 square kilometers and stretching out to the coast of the Black Sea.

MAJ Tony A. Francia, anti-terrorism force protection level two officer for ROMEX 2005, said that in addition to providing force protection for ROMEX 2005, one of the main goals of the exercise was to establish a working relationship with their new North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Romanian allies.

"Considering Romania just became a member of NATO last year, we thought this would be a great time for them to get to know us and see how we conduct our force protection mission — and for us to see how they conduct theirs," said Francia.

"This mission gave us a very significant amount of interaction with our Romanian counterparts and a great appreciation of what they can do when it comes to force protection," said MAJ Byron Johnston, operations officer for force protection.

Johnston said the Romanian military police were incredibly professional at conducting their force protection mission. "They understand the difference between our system and theirs, as far as how we conduct business in the military and conduct force protection, and they fully understand how important force protection is in today's world, with the ever-present threat of terrorism," said Johnston. "We had two Romanian units working with us. There was the Romanian Army military police unit and an anti-terrorism protection force. We got to see two different units, how they operate, what they do and how they do it, and what we can take from it to make us a better force, as well."

MAJ Donovan Avery, commander of the 1st Armored Division Rear Operations Center, said it was a great experience working jointly with the Romanian Soldiers.

"We performed daily joint patrols with the Romanian military police and this truly helped us build that working relationship we were looking to gain from this exercise," said Avery. "I would go to war and fight side-by-side with these Soldiers any day."

"This is a great opportunity for us to work with the American Soldiers who perform the same force protection job as we do," said MSG Remus Banna, first sergeant of the Romanian military police company participating in ROMEX 2005. "We did a great job together. Through communication with each other, we were able to have a successful exercise and solve any problems that came our way."

Banna said a lot of Romanians have been waiting for years for their country to be part of NATO. He was glad to see that wait come to an end and to be training with his new NATO partners.

PHOTO: SFC DERRICK WITHERSPOON

Soldiers from the Romanian military police discuss the details of their mission as they prepare to go out on a night patrol with Army Reserve Soldiers.

SPC Kenneth Brown, an Army Reserve Soldier with the 317th Rear Area Operations Center, said because he worked directly with some of the Romanian military police, he was given a detailed first-hand look into how they perform their force protection training and tactics.

"I'm taking from this exercise two things: first, the force protection measures training that I've learned from the Romanian MPs and secondly, all the friendships I have made with the Romanian Soldiers during this exercise," said Brown. "I would tell other Soldiers who want to participate in exercises like this to volunteer for everything that comes up. Not all details are bad, but the more you volunteer and the more you get to train with other units, and units from other countries, you get to see more of the overall Army mission, and with that motivation and volunteering come more opportunities." Johnston said he would like nothing more than for he and his Soldiers to come back and participate in more exercises like ROMEX 2005.

"The Romanian Army is a great NATO ally, and considering participation in ROMEX 2006 is in talks now, I hope we get the opportunity to return and perform more missions with them," said Johnston. "The camaraderie here was great. You come into an exercise like this and you have your worries, but you quickly come to see that an American Soldier and a Romanian Soldier are always Soldiers first and understand each other in a non-verbal inherent way that allows us to operate together. That's why I feel that ROMEX 2005 was truly a success for all involved."

Working side-by-side, American and Romanian Soldiers learned new skills from each other, and as new NATO allies, built strong friendships that will help conquer global terrorism.

RESERVE SOLDIERS CAPTURE HISTORY SUPPORTING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

By CPT David Hanselman
305th Military History Detachment

Members of the 305th and 53rd Military History Detachments (MHD), 99th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) deployed to Belgium and Luxembourg to join Task Force Ardennes in support of the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. As so many World War II veterans pass away, the milestone event commemorating the biggest battle in American history gave detachment members a rare opportunity to listen to these proud Americans tell their stories of personal courage and describe their individual experiences. The oral histories gathered at this anniversary will be compiled as part of an Army publication on the Battle of the Bulge.

In the early hours of Dec.16, 1944, Adolph Hitler launched his final gambit to turn the tide of the war in Western Europe. Using three armies consisting of seven armored divisions and 14 infantry or paratroop divisions, Hitler threw over 250,000 Soldiers against a thinly held front of 83,000 U.S. troops. Many of the American troops were in the Ardennes sector, widely considered quiet and safe, to reorganize after the bitter battle of the Hurtgen Forest on the German-Belgian border. Others were new to the war effort and were sent to Ardennes to acclimate to wartime conditions before being committed to "real" combat.

When the Battle of the Bulge ended in February 1945, Hitler's offensive had been crushed and the Germans were on an irreversible course to defeat. More than 600,000 U.S. troops — 29 divisions, six mechanized cavalry groups and three separate regiments — had been thrown into the Ardennes to battle a German force of over 500,000 Soldiers from 28 divisions. Casualties were monumental: more than 80,000 U.S. casualties, including more than 11,000 Soldiers killed in action, and more than 81,000 German casualties, including more than 20,000 killed in action.

Sixty years later, more than 200 U.S. veterans gathered all across Belgium and Luxembourg to remember this historic battle. Task Force Ardennes was created to support and coordinate the official Department of Defense-sponsored events. A joint service task force made up mainly of military personnel from U.S. forces in Europe, the Task Force (TF) coordinated color guards, speakers, VIP visits, bands and other U.S. supported missions. The TF Ardennes commander, MG David T. Zabecki, recognized the historical importance of this event and contacted the 99th RRC, requesting the participation of the 305th and 53rd Military History Detachments. Both units had previously performed their mission in Normandy, France during the 60th anniversary of D-Day. Zabecki recognized the value that these detachments brought to the historical event.

PHOTO: CPT DAVE HANSELMAN

MSG Marc Sammis, left, and MAJ Mark Gallihue interview Rose Young, a nurse who treated patients in an infirmary in Bastogne during the battle.

Both detachments deployed to Belgium with the 99th RRC's command historian, Dr. J. Patrick Hughes, with the mission to capture oral histories from the WWII vets that will be used to create a publication for the Army, on the historical anniversary. Over the next 12 days the nine personnel from the 99th traveled throughout Belgium and Luxembourg to meet with and talk to veterans at the very places that they had fought in 1944.

The event was a tremendous success. The people of Belgium and Luxembourg treated the veterans as cherished heroes. School children are still let out of classes when these men visit their villages, to get a chance to see the veterans they learn about in history classes and say thank you. There were countless ceremonies and celebrations and the veterans were overwhelmed with admiration. The people of both host nations also welcomed the American Soldiers of today's Army treating them with the same respect and admiration as the WWII veterans.

Strong bonds formed between the WWII Soldiers and the Soldiers in the 305th and 53rd Military History Detachments. Out of the eight Soldiers in the two units, six are veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and all are veterans of the Global War on Terorism. The Soldiers of old were quick to bond with the Soldiers of new allowing to Army to capture interviews from veterans who had not shared their experiences in 60 years. Soldiers from the two Military History Detachments taped more than six dozen interviews which they will transcribe for the Army's historical archives. Hughes will compile the work into a publication and the stories of these brave Soldiers and nurses will never be forgotten.

The mission of any Military History Detachment is to deploy to an active theater of operations and capture interviews, documents, photographs and artifacts for historical preservation of that operation. For a military historian in the Army, being able to step back into time and talk to Soldiers on the battlefield in places like Omaha or Utah Beach, Bastogne, Malmedy, Elsenborne, or St. Vith is simply as good as it gets. ARM

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

BATTLE-FOCUSED TRAINING

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